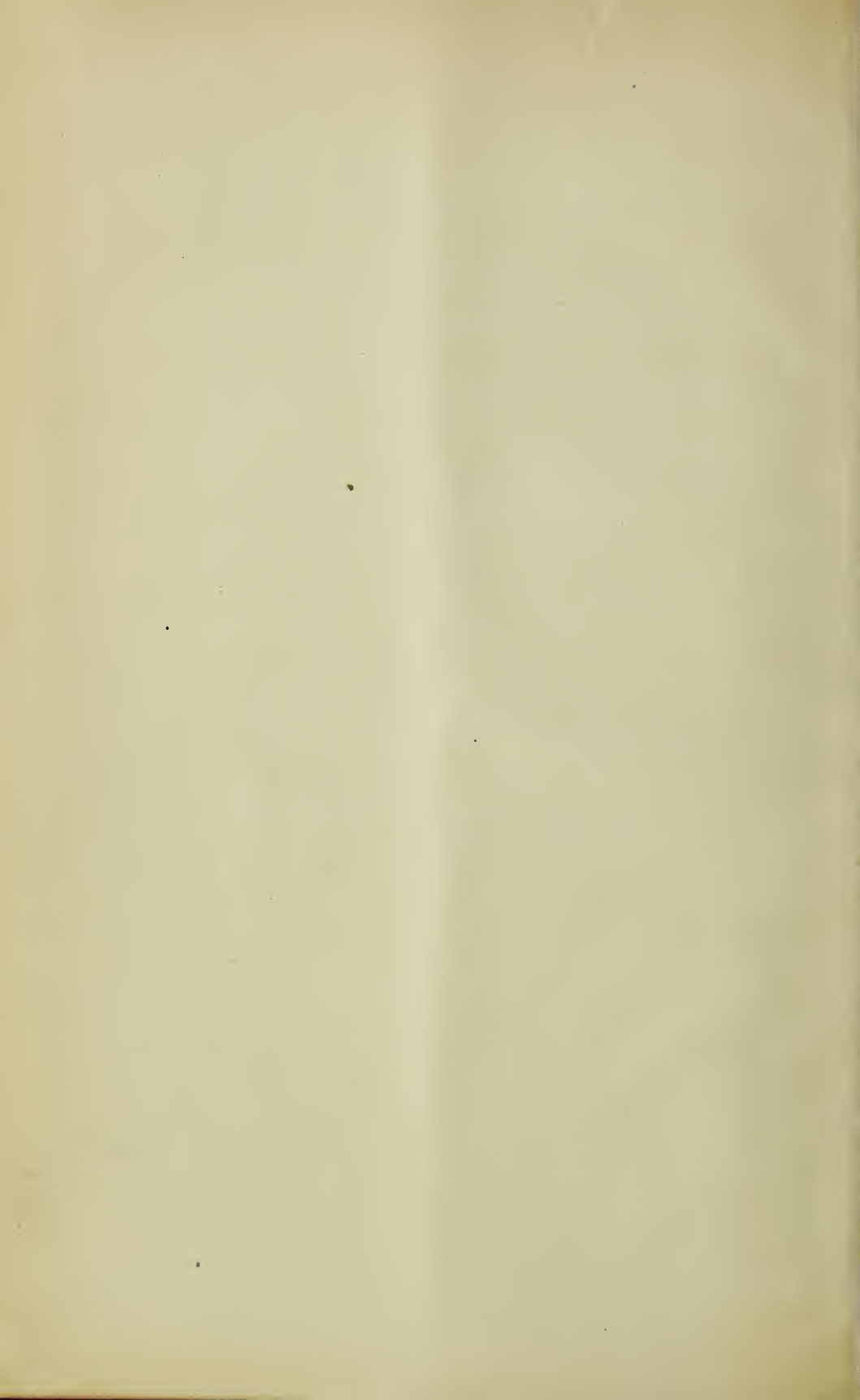


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# THE MARYLAND FARMER:

DEVOTED TO

Agriculture, Horticulture, and Rural Economy.

VOL. 10.

BALTIMORE, JANUARY, 1873.

No. 1.

## TO OUR PATRONS.

"Another Year, methought a Spirit cried,  
Another year is gone! Still rolls the world,  
Magnificent as ever, bright the sun,  
And beautiful his native heaven; the Earth  
Around looks fresh, as on her birth-day morn;  
And Man, as gay as if no knell had rung,  
No heart been broken, and no tears been shed!—  
Where, then, the hist'ry of the fleeting year,  
Of weal and woe, of glory and of shame?  
ETERNAL! Not a minute wings away  
That doth not waft a record to thy throne:—  
Time cannot die; the dim, departed years  
Will rise again, and cited ages come  
Like thoughts—creations of the mind."

These beautiful lines of Montgomery floated to our mind when we took up our pen this first day of the new year, 1873, to tender to our patrons the compliments of the season, with our sincere wishes that they may enjoy many happy returns of this day, each year finding them increased in this world's wealth, in happiness, in wisdom, and in enviable prosperity.

Commencing, with this new year, our tenth volume of the *Maryland Farmer*, with energies stimulated by the encouraging commendation of those whom we have labored for, and endeavored to please, during these many years, and by the many whose names have been sent us to swell our list of subscribers, we shall try our best to continue during the year to deserve such encouragement, and without making promises as to what we mean to do in the way of improving the old and well established Journal, preferring to give our friends agreeable surprises, rather than fulfilment of fore-shadowed expectations.

Feeling that there is a community of interest and hearty good will between the old *Maryland Farmer* and its readers, may we not embrace this pleasant occasion to ask each subscriber, at once, while the season favors leisure to read, and the social gathering of friends, to remember us and solicit subscribers, so that with a double amount of means we

can quadruple our return for such manifestations of individual interest in the prosperity of the magazine. We would wish every subscriber, particularly Marylanders, to feel as if they had a personal interest and pride in our *Maryland Farmer*.

We shall continue to cater for the amusement and instruction of our young friends—the Boys and Girls.

Desiring to make our Journal practically useful to the farming community, we earnestly solicit communications from the observant working men of our section as to their experiences, and the result of any experiments they may have made, or any information, however plainly it may be worded, which would at all advance the great interest in which we are engaged.

This year we have every assurance that our *Ladies Department* will be, by the contributions of ladies, on various household subjects, greatly enhanced in value and interest. We therefore bespeak their aid and powerful influence, being well aware of the truth contained in the poet's exclamation—

"Without the smile from partial beauty won  
Oh! what were man?—a world without a sun."

## THE MARYLAND FARMER

Presents itself to its many readers in a new and costly dress in compliment to the largely increased number of its patrons, and by way of a *surprise*, as intimated in the leader of this number, rather than as a fulfilment of a previous promise. Other improvements are contemplated, and our friends may be assured we shall do our best to keep pace with the encouragement that may be shown to us by those for whose important interests we are toiling earnestly and zealously to uphold and advance, without a thought as to remuneration beyond our actual expenses.



### BAD FARMING.

It is a source of regret that we are compelled candidly to admit that at the close of the year 1872, *bad farming* is the prevailing rule in the country still, and good farming is the exception. There are three or four main reasons why it is so—*want of scientific knowledge; too much land for the capital employed upon it; want of labor*, and we may add, *want of industry*, or what is just as bad, the false conception that farm labor is degrading. The last is perhaps, after all, the most powerful drawback to successful farming in the South. This is perhaps rather too plain talk for the fastidious among our younger readers, but with a "conscience void of offence," having solely the public weal in view, we feel justified in expressing boldly our honest convictions.

It will not be denied that there is a lamentable want of useful knowledge among the tillers of the soil, and yet it is so easily supplied. Books and journals are to be had for a small sum, which, if studied, and the knowledge by them imparted put to practical use, would cause in a short period a vast change for the better in the various departments of agricultural pursuits. If our agricultural colleges would devote less time and expense to instruction in the classics and military tactics, and more to thorough instruction in the theory and practical details of progressive agriculture, great good would result; as it is, the most of them in the country are a mockery, and anything else but schools of agriculture. They are endowed for the advancement of this grand interest by the States, and they educate their pupils for anything else but enlightened husbandmen. They do not turn out, as they were intended to do, scientific and practical working farmers and horticulturists, having a decent knowledge of the natural history of our domestic animals, as also a practical as well as scientific knowledge of the uses, mode of working, &c., of such labor-saving machinery as ought to be in operation at different times on every well conducted farm. If these things can be accomplished, that is, our colleges become temples of agricultural education, and our farmers avail themselves of the opportunities to learn, by procuring and reading journals and books, the first of the difficulties we suggested as hindrances to good farming would be easily and speedily removed.

In connection with what we have just said, if our young men became more scientific, more enlightened, they could then see that manual farm labor was not degrading, and as they increased in knowledge, their common sense would develop correspondingly, and they would be satisfied that it was

just as honorable and dignified to work in the field, plow, sow and reap, as to measure tape or weigh sugar, or even to starve genteely while waiting for professional practice, or demeaning their noblest years of early manhood in public office-seeking—the meanest and most humiliating calling a young man can pursue. All these places take away from the youth of our country half the proud independence and self-reliance, while on the other hand, the industrious country youth, grows under the invigorating influences of Nature more manly, more free and fearless, and more vigorous in mind and body, each day he leads an active, temperate, calm life in his rural pursuits:

#### TOO MUCH LAND FOR THE CAPITAL EMPLOYED.

This is a fact admitted by all—and in saying this we do not wish to be understood as saying that the smaller the farm the greater the profit; we rather incline to the opposite opinion where the same system of farming is pursued.

The prevailing fault in this country is farming without capital. In England no man can rent land who does not show to his landlord that his capital is double at least of the rent he has to pay, which is seldom under \$10 or \$20 per acre per annum, for not only the crop land, but for the pasture and waste land included in the lease, which is usually from seven to twenty-one years. Here a farmer often begins his years operations in debt, instead of a working capital to operate upon of at least \$5 per acre for the whole farm. Suppose he has a farm of 200 acres; he proposes to put 20 acres in tobacco, 20 in wheat, 40 in corn, and 20 for hay, potatoes, oats, &c., leaving 60 acres for pasture, 40 being in woods, and house-grounds, &c. To do this he must hire at least six efficient hands, keep four good horses, four work oxen, and have other stock for pleasure, and to supply butter, milk and meat. We will suppose (which we believe is generally the fact,) he has no money in hand. To feed his laborers he therefore has to pay one-third more to the grocer for his provisions. He has to pay 10 or 15 per cent. on borrowed money to pay the laborers their monthly wages, until the farm begins to yield. We suppose he makes, as follows:

20 acres in Tobacco, 14,000 lbs. at \$8 per 100 lbs.,	\$1,120
40 " in Corn, 200 lbs. at \$3.....	600
20 " in Wheat, 140 bushels, \$1.50.....	210
20 " in Hay, Oats, Potatoes, &c.....	280
	<hr/>
	\$2,210
CR.	
To hire of 6 men 1 year.....	\$720
Board of same.....	400
Keep of horses, &c.....	300
Interest on stock and utensils.....	200
Rent—or interest on land.....	600
	<hr/>
	\$2,220
His own labor sunk and balance due him.....	\$10



This is a clear case of bad farming for the want of capital. The farm has had not a dollar expended for its improvement, in fertilizers or in ditching, or other outlays for increasing its permanent value, and yet the farmer is \$10 out of pocket. We will on the other hand suppose the same farmer had had a thousand dollars or more capital to expend in manures and stock, and lessened the quantity of land in tillage by a proper system, the same labor would have made on half the land as much crop or more, and had more hay and potatoes for sale, with beef and mutton for sale, as also a large quantity of pork, and a nett profit from the dairy of \$500 to \$800; besides, the farm would have been enhanced in value by its increased fertility, double the outlay for manure. It is evidently true, what Mr. Greely said at Pimlico, that it is better to begin by making ten acres rich, and annually add to that as many as can be made really rich, thoroughly drained and cultivated. It is a difficult matter to define what is bad and what is good farming. But we may give a general idea of good farming by saying that the fences are strong, and the buildings in order; utensils and machines well kept, and in their proper places; stock well attended to; the land drained, and the drains kept open and free from obstructions; no more land cultivated than can be deeply worked, thoroughly pulverized, heavily manured, and kept clean of weeds and grass until seeded down to grass; and the land left, after the crop has been taken from it, in better condition than it was before. The whole farm so managed as to economize labor, and also to yield an annual nett revenue of not less than six per cent. on the cash value of land and personality employed on it. This might be called *good farming*, and the reverse, *bad farming*. Unfortunately the latter is by far the most fashionable.

*The want of labor* can be diminished in a great measure by dispensing with much of it, in making one acre yield what four acres do now, as it takes as much labor to make three barrels of corn per acre as it does twelve barrels per acre, and sometimes more, for the crop on poor land has frequently to be worked a longer time than on rich land.—And it can be supplied to a large degree if we enlighten our youth and dignify farm work; then, thousands who run away from paternal fields to become perhaps castaways, would remain to swell the ranks of labor. Strangers from other lands would prefer to immigrate to that section where all land-owners were working men—they would feel that there was less aristocracy, and more congeniality with their new neighbors. Let the sons of our best families seize the plow handles, and labor will flow in on us like a mighty wave of the sea.

Example is everything. Upon the dignity of labor the views of our correspondent "A. B. J.," in September number of the *Maryland Farmer*, are very just, and ought to be read by our young countrymen. As to the many faults in farming, which are everywhere apparent, and the way they are to be cheaply remedied, we refer all our readers to the able and very practical article in the last issue of this journal, by Mr. Wilkinson, and which he has promised to continue until he exhausts this most important subject. The general want of information among our farmers was happily illustrated in the popular "Dunk Papers," just brought to a close in our last number, which is much to be regretted, as they commanded public interest.

#### STORING OF TURNIPS.

The editor of the *Germantown Telegraph* recommends the following method of storing turnips to a Montgomery county farmer, who had lost about two hundred bushels by "piling them up in a long ridge under the 'overshoot,' covering them with a little straw and earth:"

"The turnip, of perhaps all roots, is the most impatient of heat. It starts to grow on the slightest provocation. In a cellar of not over 40 degrees, one may find it growing freely, after an incarceration of but a few weeks. It is growth which is the great enemy of preservation, and it is heat which excites growth. Now, in our unfortunate friend's case, there was more heat generated in the heap under the protection of the overshoot than there was in the open field. There is a natural heat in roots when put in a heap—a little heat from one root, and a little more from another, soon makes a pretty high degree; but in the open fields this is carried off by the open air about the pile. Hence, under cover or near protection, this natural heat is not carried off. It accumulates. The roots sprout, and thus give off more heat, and it all soon becomes a regular turnip stew. These turnips would have kept better under the 'overshoot' if no earth had covered them. The turnip, indeed, does not mind a little frost. If they were put in small lots in stalls, where the frost could get at them, and covered with straw to prevent rapid thawing, they would keep better than if covered with earth, which rather serves, as we have seen, to collect the heat, and *boil the roots*.

"As to how best to keep turnips, that will of course depend on each person's convenience. But each one keeps in view the fact that heat is more likely to injure them than cold—and a very low degree of heat at that—he will readily find out when he looks about, what is the best way for him to preserve them."

Skillful fatteners are far less common than good grain growers. Recent experiments have proved that animals cannot take on flesh rapidly unless the temperature is nearly uniform, and between 50 and 60 degrees.



## THREATENED WANT OF TIMBER.

Our thoughtful cotemporaries are calling attention to the rapidly clearing off the timber lands in this country, and warning our people to stop in their mad career, or be just to those who are to follow us, by planting timber trees extensively.—This is what we have, and our correspondents have, often of late, urged upon the calm and just reflection of every man who cares a fig for posterity.—Facts ascertained lately have made the subject of far greater magnitude than it was believed to be before. Fire-wood as yet may be abundant, but timber is becoming scarcer every day, and the prices are advancing in consequence, which will ere long arrest house and ship-building. The facts are startling.

It has been estimated that seventy-five million dollar's worth of fuel is burned every year in the United States. Locomotives consume eight million cords of wood annually, and over a hundred million dollars worth of sawed lumber is yearly employed in building and in manufactures. Four million acres of forest disappear every year before the axe, to supply these demands. To this the last Report from the Agricultural Department of the U. S. gives many startling statistics. There are not less than 150,000,000 cross-ties or sleepers now laid on the railroads, and these have to be renewed from every two to five years. Ten times this amount of timber is annually used in fencing.

To stop this waste in a great extent it is suggested by many to substitute hedges for fences, as every way more economical in cost and labor, besides saving a vast amount of timber. Messrs. Snider, Hughes & Co., in an able paper on hedges, recommend the *Pyracantha*, as the best for a live hedge. We extract it from that capital journal of New Orleans, the "*Rural Southland*:"

## PLANT A LIVE HEDGE.

The question rises to every lip—what shall we plant? But two plants have been brought to the attention of the farming public—the Osage Orange, and recently, the *Pyracantha*. The former has proved in the South a perfect failure. It never was designed by Nature for a hedge plant. It is a forest tree of rapid growth, and the expense of dwarfing it is more than the cost of a plank fence, and we never yet saw a field enclosed altogether by it.

The *Pyracantha* was, thousands of years ago, the favorite hedge plant with the Persians. From Persia it was carried home by Alexander's victorious soldiers into Greece. They called it *Pur* (fire) *Acanthos* (thorn)—the fiery thorn. When in bloom it is white as a bank of snow; when in fruit, a wall of fire—*Dulce et utile*—beautiful and useful. It is unmistakably the hedge plant for America, and the South especially. It is an evergreen dwarf plant, and will make a good fence inside or outside, in

three or four years, properly cultivated. We advise every farmer to inclose one field with it this fall, at least his orchard and garden. We will guarantee it will give satisfaction.

**When to Plant.**—As soon as possible after the first killing frost, from 1st of November to 1st of January, and, until the middle of April, if it cannot be put out before.

**How to Plant.**—First mark off your line, and then commence four furrows from the base line, and with a two-horse plow, followed by a bull-tongue, plow on each side as deep as possible, and when finished, the water-furrow will be on the line of the fence. Set plants 12, if ground is rich, 18 inches apart. With the hand spread out the roots and pull on dirt enough to support plant, and when the line is finished, with a one-horse plow turn the dirt back to the plant. Plow it thus twice, and if very weedy, thrice each year.

If the ground is poor, after planting give it a good top-dressing for two or three years, and you will bring the fence forward rapidly.

**When to Trim.**—One year from planting, with a pair of hedge shears, cut the plant within eight inches of the ground, and give it a nice top-dressing of composted manure and rotten leaves. The July following cut back to 16 inches, and the February following to two feet. When two years old it should be summer pruned, to give you a close hedge. This is done the last of May, when the ground is moist, and the young growth is about six or eight inches, by clipping off the ends, say one inch, and repeat in February following, cutting back to within six inches of the last cutting, and next year repeat the former operation in May, and the fourth year will give you a hedge that will protect your fruit yards, gardens, orchards or vineyards against stock, town boys and rabbits. After third year, trim it to any shape you fancy. Its habit is to grow only eight or nine feet in height.

Set out rooted plants one year old, and not cuttings, in fence row, or you will have gaps and defects you may never remedy.

We do not know how the Osage Orange answers in the South for a hedge, but in the Middle States it is an admirable hedge plant. We have had some experience with the Osage, and found it all that we could desire. It requires in this section but little more, if any, attention in pruning and trimming than any other hedge plant. It is a vigorous grower, and therefore we think desirable. It no doubt grows more rapidly, and with greater tendency to take the tree form, in the South than here. There are some fine *Pyracantha* hedges in this region—one at Georgetown College is particularly fine.

RATS have an unaccountable fondness for the taste of phosphorus, and to this fact may be attributed the origin of many mysterious fires. These rodents build their nests of inflammable materials, and take to them any stray matches that they find lying around loose. This accomplished, they undertake to gratify their appetites by nibbling the coated ends of the matches, which are at once ignited, when the nest is set in a blaze, and the destruction of the house which contains it follows.



*Agricultural Calendar.*

## FARM WORK FOR JANUARY.

This first month of the year, we should form good resolutions; determine to exert all our energies to promote success in our honorable avocation; to review all our errors in farming the past year, and endeavor to correct them; lay out our plans for the year; be sure in doing so, not to aim at working more land than we have the means of working thoroughly, and the crops got in and cultivated and harvested in order and at the right times; having carried out these resolves, leave the fruition of our hopes to a benign Providence and we may be assured we shall not fail. Bad management is much oftener the cause of crop failure than bad seasons.

Early rising and strict system are essential to success in farming. Begin both with the new year, for if you relax and indulge now, because the weather be stormy, or there is no press of work, by the time Spring opens, with its genial seasons, and work is pushing you, the habit of late rising and relaxed discipline, will have become a fixed habit with the laborers and they will rebel against the new rules, as they will call it, and leave perhaps when labor is scarce, having spent a comfortable winter at your expense, to go off on summer-day work, which is high. Begin the year as you mean to finish it. Remember too, that the master's eye is all important, he cannot luxuriate in a warm bed and expect Dick and Tom to go out in the storm and snow and take care of the stock when they know he will probably not be aware whether their duties have been performed or not, but if he is known to be up and moving around, each man will be up to the mark, encouraged by the industry and energy of the master, who by his example, shows them the necessity for this punctual performance of duty, let the storm howl ever so much.

## STOCK.

What we said about stock last month, we could only repeat now, and therefore merely remind you of it. It is a good rule to feed all stock higher in cold weather than in mild. Sheep, in our climate, are injured rather than benefited by confinement in close quarters. They should have an open shed or shelter to resort under during bad weather, and such ewes as are likely to drop lambs, ought to be set apart and put up in a comfortable shelter, with leaves or fine straw over the floor, not put thick, but renewed often to keep them dry and free from filth. Hogs ought to be fed on ground and cooked food if possible, and should be kept warm and dry, with a plenty of water, tepid if practicable. Many

of these animals go for days without water during a spell of frozen weather, because those who have charge of them do not take the trouble to break the ice in the trough or in the stream, and yet such careless owners are complaining that their hogs die, or won't fatten, with all the corn they consume and are not a paying stock. They denounce the improved breeds, because they die under such barbarous treatment, while the "hand-pike," may, never having known hog-luxury, survive the winter to appear a mangy, hairless, covered with sores, disgusting beast in the spring, to be cured, if at all, by wallowing in the restorative mire of some marsh or stream which nature, not its master, provides. We have seen this thing and sorry to say we believe it is to be seen to-day on almost every farm where the old-time system of farming is practiced, and yet farmers complain that their pork cost more than they can buy it for from the West, a thousand miles away.

## BARN-YARD.

Let the barn-yard be kept thoroughly littered, that the cattle and horses may always be dry and free from discomfiture of wet manure.

## PLOWING.

Should be done if the weather and state of the ground permit. We like winter plowing, except for very light soils, for many reasons. It is absolutely essential for very rough lands, heavy turf lands or very stiff lands. All these kinds of lands should be plowed deep, and at least every third furrow subsoiled if every one cannot be. The snows fertilize and the frost will pulverize better than a dozen harrows; as Thompson in his "Seasons" has practically and true to nature expressed the idea,

"All nature feels that renovating force  
Of winter, only to the thoughtless eye  
In ruin seen. The frost-concocted glebe  
Draws in abundant vegetable soul,  
And gathers vigor for the coming year."

## PLASTER.

Provide enough to sprinkle over the stable floors and barn-yards and hog pens twice a week, until the stock are turned on the clover in Spring.

## TOBACCO.

Of course this will be attended to, whenever the "seasons" come. All that is stripped in the early part of the season should be hung up, after it has laid in "hand-bulk" long enough to get straight and in form, which will be in a day or two, by putting a sufficiency of weight on the bulk. The tobacco house should be made tight to keep out the weather and the doors and windows closed except on fine clear days when the wind is not to high. Much loss is sustained by tobacco being exposed to the winds and rains. It loses in color and quality



and a great deal is totally ruined. It seems such a pity to see a fine crop housed and then destroyed for the want of a few nails, boards or shingles, or from neglect to keep the doors closed. On some farms as much is lost in this way as the balance sells for.

#### GENERAL WORK.

When the weather is cold, the ground frozen and unfit for grubbing and plowing, or fencing and clearing up the fields, you should be employed in getting wood for fuel, fencing stuff and brush for your tobacco beds. Your teams ought to be employed briskly in getting these things to the places where they will be wanted. And we would recommend, if you have the leisure and the roads are good, you should shell and send your corn to market, unless it should so happen the price be very low, which is not usually the case. All things considered you realize now a better price for your corn than any time during the year, except in rare instances. The shrinkage and usual loss between 1st January and 15th September, has been ascertained to be one-fourth by some careful observers, while it is generally admitted to be one-fifth. No time can be better spared than at this season to get it to market if the roads permit. It is folly for farmers on the Atlantic slope to wait for a rise in the prices of corn, now that rail roads and grain elevators furnish the easy means for the West to pour its enormous crops into our marts at a few days notice. The day has past when the corn is profitable in this region, unless we can, as we ought to do, improve our lands up to producing 100 to 150 bushels per acre, and even then the same land would yield a greater profit in hay and meat.

#### FARM IMPLEMENTS.

Get together all your farming implements and tools of every description and make an inventory of them, and an honest appraisalment of them, carefully inspect everything, and those in good order put away under shelter, and those not in good order have immediately repaired and painted, or given a coating of gas tar, which is very cheap, and protects the wood from the effects of the sun and rain, thereby preserving the utensils as effectually as a coat of paint. Put all under lock and key, "*fast bind, safe find.*" What sums are yearly lost by neglect of farm utensils, small tools, chains, etc., etc.

MUSIC IN FAMILIES.—Show us the family where good music is cultivated, where the parents and children are accustomed often to mingle their voices together in song, and we will show you one, in almost every instance, where the great vices have no abiding-place.

## GARDEN WORK.

But little can be done in the garden this month if our directions for the last two months have been followed. If from any cause they have not been, in all good weather, the cleaning up, thinning the small bushes, getting together materials for compost heap, and rich earth with some well rotted manure, for the top layer of the hot beds to be made in March, may now be prepared.

*Cold Frames.*—Require strict attention this month.

*The Orchard.*—May be gone through, and dead wood or broken limbs removed; the enclosures around both garden and orchard can be repaired if needed. Wash the young trees near the ground for two feet up, with beef or hogs blood, or wrap with old cloth, or paper smeared with tar or gas tar. Rabbits are sometimes very destructive to young and tender trees, particularly during a deep snow. Ground mice are also to be guarded against, and best so, by working up around the trees.

#### JAPAN CLOVER.

The following account of this clover we clip from the *Mobile Register*:

This plant, sometimes called Spanish clover, is one of the greatest boons that has yet fallen upon the South, and to whom we are indebted for it is a mystery that, most likely, will never be solved. The same plant grows in Japan, and that circumstance led Prof. Gray, the botanist, to name it Japan clover. No one has the slightest idea of how it got over from Japan; but the most reasonable conclusion at which we can arrive is that the seed, or possibly a single seed, was brought across in something shipped from that country. Japan clover is a heavy grower and will shade out almost any grass or other species of growth. It is an air feeder, and therefore does well on almost any character of soil, though a rich clay soil suits it best. The rapidity with which it spreads is perfectly astonishing, the more since its seeds are not winged, and therefore can give us no idea of how they obtain their quick transit from place to place.

*ALSIKE.—Trifolium Hybridum.*—This grows less rank than the red clover, and is almost as hardy. It is highly prized for bee pasturage and is cultivated to quite an extent for that purpose alone. For soiling cows, horses, &c., when pastures fail, it is considered equal or superior to green corn, and attended with much less trouble in the gathering and feeding. The haulm is small, tender and nutritious, when well cured, as it should be, in full bloom, every spear will be eaten with avidity by all kinds of stock.



*For the Maryland Farmer.*

A VARIETY OF STATEMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS ALL IMPORTANT TO THE FARMER.

NUMBER TWO.

Few farmers need to be told that the past and previous summers were both remarkable for unprecedented drought ; for few have entirely escaped its direful consequences, whilst not a few in various parts of the country have thereby been nearly ruined, and many others will never recover from the severe loss sustained, and sad as it is, it is nevertheless true, that in the burned, lumber and prairie districts, a large number of others have lost their lives, as well as their property, and expired in torture of the most indelible character. No death for man can be more terrible than that occasioned by consuming flames. Whilst on my tour of observation in August and September last, when a large portion of the country over which I travelled was still suffering from drought, a condition most favorable for draining and reclaiming wet lands, I was greatly surprised at the indifference of farmers to their interests, and to see so large a proportion of them listlessly allowing the golden opportunity to pass for the reclamation of the morass that had never before been in condition for draining economically, and may never be again.

The same neglect might be seen in every neighborhood and on nearly every farm on which ditching and draining was needed. When such work could be executed with much greater ease and convenience, and at a tithe of the cost that it could be in ordinary wet seasons, only here and there could it be seen in progress, or any preparation for it.—In soliloquy I put this grave question to myself: Is it possible that these farmers having these lands needing draining, do not know how opportune the present excessive drought is for such work?

Unwilling to believe that all of them could be so short-sighted as to neglect it, if they thoroughly understood the subject, I decided at an early day to embrace this subject in a numerous catalogue, to which I might profitably for the readers of the journals for which I write, call their attention, and point out some matters that may possibly not be known to all.

I found I could use my teams to great advantage in the work of drainage, in times of great drought, and make them perform work that must necessarily be executed by more expensive, and less controllable manual labor, if done at other times.

I could put two or three strong horses tandem in the ditch, attached to a proper subsoil plow, and

by this means I am sure I have made two or three horses break up and prepare for shovelling in the best manner, more hard soil to be excavated, than 100 men could do with picks. I have been able at such times the better to judge exactly where to locate the drains, in order that they should be most efficient, could drive loaded vehicles containing the draining material to the sites on which it was to be used with perfect ease, which would have been impossible in the ordinary condition of the soil ; and I have often hauled back from the low land to the high, from the ditch banks and muck beds, alluvial soil of great value for dressing the lands from which this deposit had mainly been washed, and I have found that the same team force would haul more than twice the bulk in a dry state that it could when saturated with water ; and that the fatigue on the team in the low lands, when in so dry a condition, was little more than it was on the upland.

Altogether, everything was favorable to rapidly and economically executing such work, and I *have never performed any labor in the improvement of land that gave so large a return for the expenditure.*

This important fact I believe I have stated in print in the last twenty-five years at least a score of times, and I have oftener read it in the recorded farm experience of many of the most enterprising and reliable agricultural writers of this and other countries.

If I can only have the gratification of seeing it heeded in future, should we ever again be so unfortunate as to have such a drought, I shall feel that I am at least well rewarded for my oft-repeated efforts in placing the subject before the agricultural journal reader.

HEAVY CROP OF FRUIT.

In every district which I visited, the crop of pears and apples was unusually large, and I should feel that I was guilty of a great omission of duty if I failed to speak of the general neglect I observed in suffering trees to carry an over-burden of fruit until they broke down under the weight, and in some instances until nearly every limb was broken, and nothing left but a denuded trunk, as a shameful monument to mark the spot where only a few months previous stood the most vigorous and most valuable tree in the orchard, for it is this class of trees that alone are liable to such a disastrous fate.

This painful sight I saw more or less examples of in nearly every neighborhood that I visited. The inexperienced in horticultural affairs may ask, what was to have been done to avert the loss of the trees of which I have spoken,

I will give the best means of prevention of such consequences that I possess.

It is simply this. Let some person of full ordi-



nary judgment, go into the orchards as soon as the fruit has reached the period that the young fruit has mainly ceased to fall, and the indications are that the respective specimens on the trees seem to claim that their share of the vitality and fruit sustaining capacity of the tree is as much theirs as their neighbors, and, by the use of step-ladders for long limbs, and low trees, carefully shake off the excess of fruit from all trees that appear to be overloaded; and it is better to err in removing too many rather than too few. In case an insufficiency is removed in the first attempt to relieve the trees, more should be removed as soon subsequently as it is discovered, by the same process; but it would be far preferable to have removed too many at first, rather than allow the tree to have nourished fruit to a considerable development, than to be destroyed after having needlessly taxed the vigor of the tree.

I have often observed that where apparently too large a proportion of the fruit has been removed in thinning, the increase in the size of, and the improved quality of those left, made the crop more valuable than it would have been had more been allowed to remain.

#### THINNING.

Few men can, however, thin their own fruit, the instinctive greed that prompts so many to get all they can, and keep all they get, is so strong in most men that they cannot be trusted to thin their own fruit or vegetables. They are sure to allow too many to remain, and fail of the object aimed at at last.

Few employees in horticultural grounds possess the judgment, or will exercise the care to perform this peculiar work of thinning as it should be done, hence, each proprietor should endeavor to educate himself for the performance of this work himself, or at least to personally direct it.

Larger trees can only be reached by the use of a ladder, and by climbing to the respective limbs to be relieved.

It has been recommended by some amateurs, to perform the work of thinning fruit on trees by means of the fruit picker, and on a small scale on small trees of choice, valuable kinds, this may be warranted, but on a larger scale it would be impracticable, and too expensive.

Many trees not broken down by being overburdened with fruit will be seriously injured, and may not recover from the effects of excessive production for many years, which might have been avoided by timely attention.

#### VEGETABLE AND ROOT CULTURE.

Every year, and on almost every farm, may be seen the effects of a neglect to properly thin, and to

plant at proper distances, vegetables and root crops. I cannot better, or more forcibly illustrate the effect of such indiscretion and neglect, than by relating an occurrence that transpired near Philadelphia some years since.

Two neighbors were competitors for the prize on a crop of ruta bagas, several consecutive years, and the same one succeeded in taking the prize every year when finally the unsuccessful addressed the successful after the award, thus, "My neighbor, you have had glory enough, pray tell me the reason of your excelling me in a crop every year.

"Our neighbors all agree that my land is quite as fertile as yours, and that my crop is cultivated with more care than yours, and yet your yield is greater than mine. What is the cause?"

"Well," replied the other, "I'll tell you. You and your sons thin your crop, and I allow hired men to thin mine; no man can thin his own roots; he is sure to leave them so thick that a full crop cannot be made."

The other thanked him, and admitted that the cause assigned for his failure was no doubt correct, and it is very probable that it was so, if not in that case, there have been many other instances in which a root crop has been seriously injured for want of proper thinning. In fact, there can scarcely be a crop of ruta bagas or common turnips found which is not more or less diminished from this cause.

I have found, however, that there is a material difference in the necessities of different root crops in this particular.

I have found that the development of the carrot and salsify is not checked to that degree by crowding, as are the crops above mentioned.

The carrot will develop at the distance of three inches apart as well as at a greater, and the space of two inches is ample for salsify.

I produced a premium crop of long orange carrots in Pennsylvania, some twenty years since, which yielded 1,017 bushels per acre, and I well recollect that many of the plants when fully grown were so near that they nearly touched each other in the drill.

The same year my ruta бага crop was lessened by being too close.

#### MULCHING.

Notwithstanding that it is now pretty generally conceded that there is perhaps no work performed, or material used on the farm, with greater profit than the judicious mulching of certain crops, with certain material, yet we may see in every neighborhood, and on nearly every farm, great loss being sustained by the neglect of it. In the interior, in



districts in which no straw is sold, it is common to see the straw of a crop of grain in a heap, where it fell from the thresher, for years, and not unfrequently until the land is broken up for another rotation of cropping.

I saw recently the straw from a large area in wheat and oats lying in a heap, and the newly set grass all around it perishing with drought, which a mulch of said straw would have saved, and doubled the product of the grass next year.

Another striking example of the common neglect that one would suppose the most ordinary sagacity and industry would have checked.

#### WATER SUPPLY.

I also noticed cattle being driven two and a half miles to water, all the wells, springs and streams having dried up, and yet strange to say, but one farmer in the neighborhood was engaged in making any provision for immediate or future supply—and he was sinking a well in hard rock, near the barn. Still another case of wanton neglect, extending to a neighborhood with a single exception.

Whilst this solitary exception was creditable, it was not judicious; for had this farmer expended one-half of the amount in constructing a cistern to receive the water from the roofs of his barns and stabling, his chances of supply would have been much greater and more reliable than from a well in a region proverbial for its dry and unreliable wells. In this connection it will be profitable for me to mention a case in my personal experience, where I furnished plans for a large farm barn in 1870, and embraced in the plan a very spacious cistern, when there were two wells within nearly a stone's throw of the site of the barn.

My patron had had no experience with cisterns, and naturally under the circumstances he protested against the construction of the cistern, but I prevailed, and but for that cistern which has given during the past season a full supply for all purposes, both man and beast would have been without water, unless they went a long distance for it.

#### WASTING APPLES.

I have seen recently immense quantities of fine apples going to waste in rural districts.

In reply to my inquiry, why this waste? I was informed that the stock of hogs at hand was insufficient to consume the apples, and that casks were so high and scarce that they could not afford to make them into cider or vinegar.

I then inquired why they were not fed to the dairy cows which were subsisting on parched, scanty pastures.

I was told that they were "surprised that one professing to be the counsellor of the practical farmer, and one who had enjoyed an experience of

three score years, should not know what the world should know, viz: that apples would not only dry up a cow, but that if they ate too many, they would bloat and founder the cow."

The latter I granted, and confessed that I had been cognizant of the important fact stated, from my earliest knowledge of anything about cows and apples, except to drink milk and cider.

But I also claimed to know other facts about apples and cows that my kind, though rather sarcastic, would-be preceptor, had endeavored forcibly to inculcate.

I then informed him that by beginning to feed a half peck of apples to each cow daily, in two feeds or meals, and increasing a one-fourth peck per diem he might in seven days have each cow eating one bushel per diem, and that no injurious effects would be realized, but that the flow of milk would be probably doubled, and the quality would be equal to any milk that he had ever seen.

He was very reluctant in crediting my startling statement, which he at first branded as the "most ridiculous book-farming that he ever heard of."

But fortunately for him, and I consider it equally so for myself, I happened to remain in the immediate neighborhood several days.

I convinced him that I was not crazy or jesting, and he commenced feeding all his cows according to my direction, though not without some misgivings. The second day there was a perceptible gain in the quantity and color of the milk, and before the seven days had elapsed he was feeding more liberally than I had recommended, and the quantity of milk given by the herd had nearly doubled. This rapid increase was not altogether attributable to the quality of the food consumed, but was owing to the greater decree of quietude and shade enjoyed by the cows, and their not being obliged to roam in the fervid sun all day in pursuit of their food.—But to curtail the narrative, he is still feeding the cows, and has stored away a fine lot of winter butter, when the yield prior to commencing to feed apples was scarcely sufficient to meet the daily wants of the family.

It is gratifying to state that this same convert to book-farming is now engaged in the construction of a cistern, and is fitting up an open shed, with stalls for all his stock, which is to be stabled the coming winter for the first time; and a neighbor has taken the cue, and is following suit.

It is proper that I should state in connection with this subject that apples, if fed to cows without cooking, should be *ripe* and *mellow*, and no rotten ones should be fed. They would be much improved by steaming. Those fed in the instance above related were mainly sour apples, but they were fully ripe, and my instructions were to feed none but ripe apples.

J. WILKINSON,

*Landscape Gardener, Rural Architect, and  
Consulting Agriculturist, Baltimore.*



For the Maryland Farmer.

### MANUFACTURED FERTILIZERS.

It has been, for some years past, a frequent and favorite suggestion, that farmers should buy the raw material out of which to manufacture fertilizers, and compound them for themselves. We seen, in Southern farm journals especially, various formulas for such compounds. It was a favorite idea of the late Dr. Higgins, at one time State Chemist, and later, Professor of Chemistry in the Agricultural College, and urged by him in agricultural addresses and otherwise. It was maintained that there would be large saving to the farmer in cost, and that he would be much more sure of getting just what he paid for, and not something else.

These are forcible considerations, and it would be interesting to know to what extent the agricultural community has profited by them. My own impression has been that farmers would not compound their own fertilizers if they could, and could not if they would. They will not, because they commonly have on their hands something more immediately pressing, and the occasion for using the fertilizer comes upon them and leaves no time for compounding. They find it very convenient to get the finely prepared article, which at a day's notice the manufacturer will send them. Moreover, having tried it once the farmer finds it a very disagreeable and troublesome job, out of his line of work, and unsatisfactory after he has done his best with it. He cannot do it satisfactorily because it requires facilities for the work and experience, added to the necessary intelligence.

I call attention to the subject now, for the purpose of quoting the opinion of Dr. Voelcker, the English Chemist, who stands deservedly at the head of those who have had most experience in the application of chemistry to agriculture. I quote as I find it in a late number of *The Country Gentleman*: "I do not recommend the system of home-made super-phosphates. For some time we made our own at the agricultural farm at Cirencester; but taking the quantity of soluble phosphate produced, we found we could not make it so cheap as it could be bought. There is a decided advantage in buying a super-phosphate." Further, he says: "I lay particular stress on the term *intelligent manufacturer*, because I believe it a *hazardous undertaking* for the farmer to prepare his own super-phosphate—considerable knowledge being required, together with a practical acquaintance with the method and proper appliances."

To this may be added the opinion of Mr. Goodale, the intelligent Secretary of the Board of Agriculture of the State of Maine, who has given a

great deal of attention to this subject. He says: "The great difficulty in the way is the want of knowledge of those chemical principles upon which, though few in number, success depends. The best raw materials differ widely in their composition, and it is only by the faithful labors of a competent chemist that, from such varying material, a uniformly valuable product may be obtained. Honesty alone in the manufacture will avail little. It must be allied with intelligence. Again, the chemicals employed are such that, without great care, unfortunate accidents may result, and, furthermore, the cost at which in small quantity they could be procured, would be 100, 200, 300 or 400 per cent. greater than the extensive manufacturer has to pay for the same."

We may as well then recognize this manufacture of fertilizers to be what it is, a distinct and very important branch of business, that must be managed by experts who can command suitable facilities and material. Farmers claim to have suffered at the hands of fraudulent manufacturers; and no doubt, to some extent, they have, but is there not the same trouble as to everything almost we have to buy? We have to look out for ourselves as best we may, and chiefly by dealing with men of known integrity. While there are doubtless cheats and thieves in this, as in all trades, it is very well known that there are men of well known character who sell genuine and reliable fertilizers.

It would be well if farmers would look to it that they do not become themselves the authors of their mishaps in the use of fertilizers. Very recently we met with the complaint of a cotton planter that not only did they often fail to make a suitable return for the expenditure, but in time of drought were destructive of the crop. It seems plain that in such cases the fault lies in injudicious application, which concentrates the fertilizer too closely about the tender rootlets of the plants. We have several times failed of a summer crop from drought, without seeing that the fertilizer took any share in the failure, and have been glad to find it wait for the next spring crop, and give apparently as good a return as if just applied. It is agreeable to look upon the immediate, forcing effect of a concentrated application, but it is greatly better to forego this pleasure, and look with confidence to the winding up period for the best results. The best economy is to mix very thoroughly with the surface soil and be sure the rootlets will hunt it up, if there be moisture enough, or that is will, at any rate, tell sometime.

That concentrated fertilizers have become a necessity to the agriculture of a very extensive portion of our Southern country, admits no reasonable



doubt, and this necessity is likely to continue.— That their use can become greatly more effective by wiser application of them we are also very sure. And this would consist, as in England, of such crops as are to be fed out on the farm, as well as crops of grass that will make sod and humus to preserve and enrich the soil. Applied only to grain or tobacco or cotton, the product is mainly taken away, and the land does not improve. If the land does improve, *pari passu*, with crop growing we are not getting the best returns from our work.

#### THE CHEMISTRY OF CLOVER CULTURE.

What Dr. Voelcker says on this subject is not altogether new, but it will bear repeating. Clover culture is one of those topics that cannot be too constantly or urgently pressed. It may be made of incalculable value, and is capable of doing for us all that the turnip culture has done for England, and at a great deal less cost. The turnip needs costly manuring, and makes at last only a portion of the food fed for manufacturing meat. This meat it is often asserted costs the farmer all that he gets for it, leaving the manure his net gain after it is converted into the grain which it is capable of growing. We get at this result without the long and precarious process of unprofitable meat manufacture; getting from the uncultivated clover results approximating at least those that come of the British farmers manure heaps. We could quite probably reach them, if we would apply our fertilizers directly to the increase of our clover crop, and supplement the clover lay with a small additional dressing when the wheat is sown.

We quote from Dr. Voelcker: "All who are practically acquainted with the subject must have seen that the best crops of wheat are produced by being preceded by crops of clover grown for seed. I have come to the conclusion that the very best preparation, the very best manure, is a good crop of clover. \* \* \* A vast amount of mineral manure is brought within reach of the corn crop, which otherwise would remain in a lock-up condition in the soil. The clover plants take nitrogen from the atmosphere, and manufacture it into their own substance, which, on decomposition of the clover roots and leaves, produces abundance of ammonia. In reality the growing of clover is equivalent to a great extent to manuring with Peruvian guano; and in this paper of mine I show that you obtain a larger quantity of manure than in the largest dose of Peruvian guano which a farmer would ever think of applying."

There is great encouragement in such a showing to increased attention to this valuable plant. It is further commended to poor-land farmers by the circumstance that very commonly it is grown with success at the very small cost of a dollar's worth of gypsum to the acre.

For the Maryland Farmer.

#### LUCERNE—SOILING.

We believe the Agricultural Journals cannot well do their readers a greater service than persuading them of the great value of *Lucerne*, both as meadow and as a green soiling crop. If sown on deep plowed land it yields immensely, and never suffers from drouth, as it runs its roots deeply in the ground; if there be no unusual hindrance, it will run down many feet to find moisture, thus also acting as a subsoiler; we have found the roots of this nutritious plant more than three feet below the surface soil; they are nearly as large as parsnips roots, and when cut off by the plow, at a depth of from seven to twelve inches, they rot below that and leave a moist fertilizer or *humus*, which aids to keep the ground porous at that depth; while the portion above, which is turned under and mixed with the soil, furnishes a large amount of fertilizing elements. On deep, strong land it may be mowed several times in the season, yielding a vast amount of excellent feed, which is liked by all stock, and is first rate for milk. It sprouts early in the spring, and may be mowed earlier than clover for soiling. This much we know by experience; and add the following confirmatory testimony in regard to it:

"Mr. C. W. Howard, in the *Southern Farm and Home*, Memphis, Tennessee, says, concerning lucerne:

"As a forage plant at the South, lucerne is very far superior to all others. It is used for three purposes. First, for feeding green, or soiling; used in this way, it is best to cut the lucerne a day in advance, so as to feed in a wilted state. *It must never be pastured.*

"Lucerne hay is extremely nutritious, and is relished by horses, cattle and sheep. It is preferred by the domestic animals to any other kind of hay. The product of lucerne is enormous. Five tons of excellent hay may be cut from an acre. It is estimated that fodder, green and dry, may be obtained from an acre of lucerne for the support of five horses during the entire year. This included the great bulk of green food during the spring, summer, and autumn."

We believe the seed can be procured at most of the large seed stores; and generally cost about double the price per bushel of red clover; but then, about half the quantity per acre is sufficient for seeding. It is particularly well adapted to the light lands of Virginia, on account of running its roots deeply.

D. S. C.

The words of glorious John Milton are right words: "Though all the winds of doctrine were let loose upon the world, so *Truth* be among them we need not fear. Let her and falsehood grapple; who ever knew her to be put to the worst in a free and open encounter?"



For the Maryland Farmer.

### TO YOUNG FARMERS.—No. XIII.

Were I able, with pen or voice, to reach every young farmer in the land, and to secure his attention, chief among all farm operations I would urge upon them to fully understand, and thoroughly to practice two things, namely: to *top-dress* all meadows and fields of winter grain, and to *soil all their stock*.

With all who have practiced it to any extent, applying manure and compost on the meadows and winter wheat and rye, it is found to be the most advantageous way to use manure, and to bring the most speedy profit for the operation. Spread on winter wheat late in autumn does much to prevent winter-killing, by preventing the plants from being torn out by frost or blown bare by the wind in dry times in winter, as is often the case. This mulching or top-dressing also shelters the young grain and grass from the early hot sun in spring, and prevents the moisture and ammonia from being evaporated, and thus entirely avoids, or largely lessens, the evils of drought. It also fertilizes and stimulates the growth of the young plants, by being leached and soaked into the soil, gradually, by the rains. We have succeeded in raising, and have seen others raise bountiful crops of first-rate winter wheat on lands where none before ever did, or even expected to get crops, on account of winter-killing; but top-dressing or mulching makes winter grain a sure thing, where otherwise it could not succeed.

Then, we have taken old, dry, "sod-bound" meadows, and liberally spread manure and compost on them in the fall, and next summer cut three tons of good hay to the acre. The mulching kept the soil moist and soft, sheltered off the sun, leached down and stimulated the growing of the grass; we have also top-dressed right after the first mowing in June, so that the hot sun should not dry and scorch the ground and roots, laid bare by mowing, and thereby obtained another good swarth of over a ton to the acre. This operation pays well if done once in two years, and will prevent a good meadow from ever "running out," or getting sod-bound, so that plowing and re-seeding is never necessary, unless it is desired to plow occasionally and sow to grain; but if there be a good market for the hay, it is by this process more profitable than grain raising.

And this leads to the consideration of *green-soiling*, or feeding all the stock in yards and stables the year round, instead of pasturing. It is proved by the experience of all who have carefully tried it, that thus feeding all the farm animals, with feed

cut for them, is more profitable and pleasant than the usual mode of pasturing. Fields deeply plowed, thoroughly harrowed, seeded down to grass, and well top-dressed frequently, will furnish feed for much more stock than in any other way—an acre will afford three to four times as much feed when several times cut in the season, than when pastured. Then the manure is all saved, handy in the yard for use; and all maintain that this saving of manure more than meets the cost of feeding. Then the animals are all gentle and docile, and at hand whenever wanted for use or sale, or to work or milk; there is no loss of time in running after teams or cows, and no "laying out" and losing a milking; besides, the young stock—steers, colts and heifers—are all gentle, and give little trouble in breaking, having been daily handled, they have nothing to fear and little to learn. These are important considerations to the judicious farmer; for thereby he is saved much vexation and bad temper. Besides, it leads to a great saving in fences, as many field and division fences are rendered unnecessary. Late figures show that the fences of the United States cost as much as the value of all the live stock owned in the country; the last Agricultural Report shows the total cost of fences in the United States to be \$1,845,355,000—one billion, eight hundred and forty-five millions, three hundred and fifty-five thousand dollars; and the average cost per acre of all the land fenced is about \$10.—And most of this vast expense for fencing can be dispensed with by adopting the green-soiling system on our farms. There are at least a dozen other advantages the farmer may derive from soiling we could mention, and may do so in another number.

Then I come back and re-iterate the declaration at the head of this article, that the two chief operations to be considered are soiling and mulching; and farmers cannot too soon and fully give attention to them, and make them the land marks of their operations. We could not give better counsel to our best friend.

LAND MARK.

The waste of uncultivated land in England has a good exemplification in the park of the Duke of Marlborough, in Oxford county. It is surrounded by a stone wall ten feet high and seventeen miles in circumference, and is as uncultivated as any of our own prairies, simply giving pasture to 4,000 deer. It must be obvious, even to the least reflective mind, says an English journal, that such a condition of barbarism, in an age of self-boasting civilization, cannot be allowed to continue much longer. The worst feudalism was better than this, for it made provision for labor and poverty.



## HORTICULTURAL.

*For the Maryland Farmer.*

### POTOMAC FRUIT GROWERS' SOCIETY.

The December meeting of this association was well attended, and the discussions more than usually interesting, and many points elicited of considerable importance. Chalkley Gillingham, President, in the Chair, and P. H. Fulsom, Secretary. Minuters read and approved.

Several members exhibited handsome fruit, among them J. T. Bramhall, several varieties of apples; and Stacy Snowden, apples and the "Vicar of Winkfield" pear—all of which were discussed and relished with gusto by the members, with some difference as to the names.

#### PEACHES—EARLY AND LATE.

The pecuniary and dietetic value of both early and late peaches was very freely discussed.

Mr. John Saul spoke of three excellent early English varieties, propagated by Lord Rivers, called the "Louisa," "Early Rivers," and "Beatrice," the latter being somewhat preferable. He said, that the past season, Mr. Bellieu, of Littleton, N. C., had a quantity of these peaches fully ripe on the 15th of June—they are two weeks ahead of Hale's Early, good color, good bearer, and carry well. Some were shipped and arrived in good order in the New York city market.

Mr. Saul has made a study of this peach, and is thoroughly conversant with its history. The society, so far as an opinion was expressed, were unanimous in the opinion that the "Plowden" was a "sport" of Hale's Early.

He informed the society that he has about 30,000 young trees in the nursery of those English sorts. Mr. J. B. Claggett also has a large number of the "Plowden's Early."

Col. D. S. Curtiss called attention to the fine late peach, exhibited at last meeting, by Mr. Lévy, large, handsome and rich flavor, hanging on the tree, in good condition, till last of October, and then keeping several weeks after. It is recommended that members procure buds and test it in different soils and localities, which Mr. Lévy freely offered to all who wish them.

Mr. Bramhall spoke of the "Solway" peach as an English variety, and valuable here.

Other members spoke of some acquaintance with this description of peach.

Maj. J. H. King spoke of two peaches, one early and one late, which he thought deserving of notice and encouragement by the Society. The early one was in our market, often, by the 15th of

June, large, fair and high flavor; and Mr. Saul thought it identical with the "Beatrice." Mr. King said the other kept very late in the fall, does not rot, but shrivels away, many weeks after picking.

#### PLUMS—APRICOTS—CURCULIO.

A member mentioned that a man in Staunton, Va. had a variety of plums, which withstands the Curculio, and he makes a fine speculation by taking them to New York, and selling them for good prices.

Maj. King said the "Wildgoose" plum was nearly proof against Curculio. It was stated by members that the Apricot succeeds well in some localities, where well sheltered by other trees; and fails in others.

President Gillingham said he had found a fine seedling peach on his grounds, which keeps till late in October, and large, good flavor and handsome size.

#### DECLINE AND DECAY OF TREES.

Some discussion was had on this subject by many members.

Col. Curtiss suggested that many trees and orchards are often weakened and diseased by too over bearing every year—that their constitution is destroyed, so that they cannot stand disease.

They should be shaken and the fruit thinned out, and the tree not be allowed to bear full quantity of fruit every year.

Maj. King thought this an important idea, and worth careful attention, which was concurred in by most of the members; they urged thinning out.

#### LOW PRUNING.

Members, generally, recommended pruning so as to leave the limbs low down; it afforded shelter to the trunk of the tree and the ground from the hot sun—and enabled the fruit to be more easily and safely gathered, than high pruning, and afforded better fruit.

Mr. Snowden favored high pruning, so as to allow plowing close to the trees.

#### BAD ODORS AND FRUIT.

Care should be taken to prevent fruit from coming in contact with matters of bad odor, as the fruit soon imbibed it, and was thereby injured.

Adjourned till first Tuesday in January.

LAND MARK.

What a glorious world this would be if all its inhabitants could say, with Shakspeare's shepherd: "Sir, I am a true laborer; I earn that I wear; owe no man hate; envy no man's happiness; glad with other men's good; content with my farm."



## California Correspondence.

For the Maryland Farmer.

### WINE MAKING.

ST. HELENA, NAPA VALLEY, CALIFORNIA, }  
November 11th, 1872. }

Messrs. Editors:—Seeing in the November number of the Maryland Farmer an article on "Grape Culture and Wine-Making in Maryland," I thought perhaps a sketch of the "modus operandi" in California might be interesting as well as instructive to many of your readers, as it differs somewhat from your correspondent, and in my judgment saves time and trouble, besides running less risk with the wine after it is made.

First, we will begin with the planting out of the vineyard. The grounds must be nicely prepared by deep plowing, thorough dragging and rolling, and laid off five feet each way; in the checks are planted cuttings from the old vineyard of such varieties as we wish, or from cuttings of the last year, which have been rooted in the following manner: In a nicely prepared and well manured piece of ground a small trench is dug, and in it these cuttings are placed 3 or 4 inches apart, in an inclined position, covering them with the dirt taken from the next trench, one foot apart, and so on, as many as we wish. These cuttings, when first planted, are tied to a small stake, to support it until the stalk of the vine is of sufficient size to support any amount of sprouts which it may produce. In pruning we cut back, only leaving three little buds to each branch as many as we may wish to a vine, thereby throwing its strength and growth into the main stalk, which in a few years is sufficiently strong and well rooted to bear the weight of both branches and fruit. Every year we cut back in the same way, leaving the main stalk about four feet high, thereby rendering the vines easy to work, (which we do with a plow and cultivator every spring,) and the fruit easy to gather. We prune in February, as at that time, in our climate, all danger of frost has passed. One part of our vineyard, composed of the old native California or Mission grape, is over twenty years old, and the size of the main stalk averages fifteen inches in circumference; we have besides many varieties of foreign grapes, such as Muscat, Muscatello, Mallaga, Berger, Black Hamburgh, Black Morocco, Sweet Water, Zinfandel, &c., in all about twenty acres planted, or fifteen to be planted this coming February. The vintage begins here the middle of October, and continues until the middle of November. The twenty acres produced last year over 13,000 gallons, but

the present season, owing to a late frost in the spring, it only yielded a little over 8,000.

The process of making wine only differs in one respect from the plan adopted by Mr. Schmidt, as far as I can judge from your correspondent. After the white wine is pressed we draw it off into large casks, placed in the upper story of the cellar, which is kept at 75 degrees, night and day, by a wood stove, thereby quickening the process of fermentation, and in from five to eight days it is ready to be drawn off into the cool lower cellars, and tightly bunged. In white wine the skins are not allowed to ferment with the juice, but after pressed twice are thrown away. On the contrary, in making red wine the skins and juice ferment together, until the percentage of sugar needed is reached, when the wine is drawn off, and the skins then pressed and discarded, the wine and juice from the press being mixed together, and treated as the white wine.—The wine now being made requires strict attention for at least a year, and must be racked off into other casks at least three times during that period when it is good and fit for use, though improving more and more each year it is kept.

Yours truly,

CALIFORNIA.

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DRAINING FIELDS.—A correspondent of the *Ohio Farmer* gives these directions for draining fields without the use of the spade: First stake out the line for the ditch, then plow three, four or five furrows, depending upon the size of the plow and the depth of the ditch wanted, taking the last furrow from where you want the center of the ditch, then with a team and scraper (a good road scraper answers very well) scrape the earth each way, carrying it back one, two or even three rods, if there is any low place to be filled up, slopping the banks so that you can drive a team and wagon or plow through without any difficulty; then if the land is flat or level, plow at right angles from the ditch in lands fourteen or sixteen paces wide, opening the last or dead furrow into the ditch. Plow in the same manner twice or three times if necessary bring the last or dead furrow in the same place until your land is dry, and in rolling beds fourteen or sixteen paces wide. You can then cross the lands or beds and your land will remain rolling and dry.

—  
"Mama, dear, didn't you say that a new servant ought always to have a character with her?" "Yes, dear." "Then hadn't auntie better go with Jane when she tries for a new place? I heard Mr. Toll say what a wonderful character auntie was."

—  
A wedding trip—A breach of promise.



## Clippings & Comments.

BY THE EDITORS.

### PROCESS OF GERMINATION.

An eminent writer upon the subject, in speaking of the action of the sun in the great work of germination, remarks:

"Upon the chemical action of the sun's rays depends the germination of seeds as well as the growth of plants. We bury the seed in the ground and shut it out from the influence of light, but we do not place it beyond the sun's actinic influence, for that penetrates like heat to the little earthy couch where the embryo plant lies hid, and arouses it into life. Light, or the luminiferous rays of the sun, so important to the well being of the plant, is actually inimical to the excitation of vitality in the seed. How singular is this fact! A series of carefully conducted experiments has proved that seeds will not germinate in light, although supplied with heat and moisture, when the actinic rays are cut off. Deprived of the luminous rays with the actinic in full force, they spring into life with great rapidity. Seeds sown upon the surface of the earth will scarcely germinate, as soil cultivators very well know, and, on the other hand, seeds buried, so deep that the actinic rays cannot reach them, will certainly perish. The planting of seeds so as to secure the proper distance below the surface, is a most important point in husbandry, as it has much to do with the early starting of the plant and the success of the crops."

### PRESERVING POSTS.

A correspondent of the *Western Rural* says that he discovered many years ago that wood could be made to last longer than iron underground, but did not make the discovery known because he thought the process so simple and inexpensive that it was not worth while to make any stir about it. The following is his recipe:

Take boiled linseed oil and stir in pulverized charcoal to the consistency of a paint. Put a coat of this over the timber, and he avers there is not a man living who will see them rotten.

### BARN-YARD MANURE AND ASHES.

A correspondent of the *Rural New Yorker* asks "whether barn-yard manure and ashes can be used together on land?" Both can be profitably used on the same land, but they should not be mixed before application. The barn-yard manure should be applied to and incorporated with the soil, and the ashes applied separately as a top-dressing. "Can the two be used alternately, at different seasons, on the same land?" Yes. "How much ashes can be used per acre, on moderately good land with safety?" Any amount from one bushel to five hundred bushels.

### CASTOR BEANS.

It is stated that Castor Beans in California have not been remunerative—even where a fine quality of oil was manufactured from them—and farmers who entered largely into its culture the past season are going to abandon it henceforth.

### TO STORE SUGAR BEETS THROUGH WINTER.

A *Germantown Telegraph* correspondent, in Chester county, asks how he shall cure his sugar-beets for his cattle through the winter. The best plan the editor knows of is to store them in a barn-cellar, letting them have some air. Some bury them in the field the same as turnips or potatoes; but we have seen many tons stored together in barn-cellars, uncovered and as cold as possible without freezing, and they kept sound until fed. We should, however, like to have some fresh information on the subject, and will thank those having experience to communicate through our columns.

### HOW TO DESTROY THE CABBAGE WORM.

This worm having made sad havoc among our cabbage fields the past season, we give the following from a correspondent of the *Rural New Yorker*:

"I have been entirely successful the past season with the following:—Diluted mackerel brine, applied on and around the plants, three or four times a week, until the cabbage begin to head. In my garden, all that I treated in this way made good, sound heads, and others in the same patch were destroyed."

### CLOVER—ORCHARD GRASS.

Mr. Geo. Geddes, of New York, says that there "is nothing equal to clover for turning in, and that orchard grass is the best for green food for cows to produce milk. He had known three crops of this grass to be cut in Western New, and he would far rather handle hay than corn stalks." Rye and Buckwheat are also excellent crops for turning under.

### HOW TO FILL AN ICE HOUSE.

The ice house of L. R. Lyons, of Lyons' Falls, N. Y., says the *Utica Herald*, has not been empty for twenty years, nor has a pound of ice ever been put into it. The building is constructed after the ordinary method, and when it is designed to fill it a rose jet is placed upon the water pipe, and, as the water comes through it is chilled and drops into the house, where it forms a solid mass.

### A PREVENTIVE OF RUST IN WHEAT

Is asked for by many farmers, and is being discussed in several of the Agricultural Clubs. The best method we have ever seen tried is thorough underdraining the land. We have never known a crop of grain to rust on such land; it may have done so, but we do not know it. Who does? asks the *Rural New Yorker*.

Dr. Voelcker says that it is useless to cover manure heaps in the field with soil to confine the ammonia, inasmuch as the organic acids are formed at the same time the ammonia is evolved, which immediately unite with the ammonia, forming non-volatile compounds.

THE GRAPE CROP of Ohio is harvested in excellent condition. An unusually large amount of wine will be made. The grape yield of last year was more than 15,000,000 pounds.

The Chicago man who stepped behind a pair of mules that he intended to purchase, asked with much feeling, when he was picked out of the gutter, "if the derrick killed anybody else."



## VALUE OF HUNGARIAN GRASS.

From a recent address on raising and curing hay, by Dr. George B. Loring, before a meeting of farmers, during the recent New England fair, we extract the following from a report of the speech in the *Massachusetts Ploughman* :

"There are certain substitutes which are useful for local purposes. I have been very much surprised, within the last two or three years, to see of how much value a certain grass which has been condemned a good deal is to the farmer at home. I refer to Hungarian grass. I have not been particularly fond of Hungarian grass; I had been told that it was injurious to horses; that it did not grow well, did not spend well, required a certain kind of season, and was a doubtful crop, that when it got into the land you could not get it out, and so on. But I commenced in a small way the raising of Hungarian grass, and have gone on, until this year I have sown twenty-five acres, and I find it to be one of the most useful and profitable grasses for home consumption. You are obliged to be careful in the growing of it; it is not a grass that grows in cold weather, like the grasses to which I have formerly alluded, one advantage of which is that they begin to grow early in the spring, and the colder the spring the better they grow, and they are adapted especially to this climate. But the Hungarian must not be sown till the warm months. It is analogous to corn. If you sow it too early, it grows to a certain point and stands still until the warm weather and then starts up, because it has an uncongenial climate. I am satisfied that Hungarian grass, sown when the ground is ready to take clover and herd grass seeds, does not yield so well as that sown later. And, more than that, sown at that time, it grows so slowly that the weeds get ahead of it, and when the time comes for you to cut your grass, you find yourself loaded down with a combination of Hungarian grass and weeds, which is not by any manner of means an indication of good farming, and which is not so nutritious for the animals. So I would sow Hungarian grass from the middle of June to the first of July, and on a piece of land properly manured, well cultivated, and a warm rich loam, you can in six weeks raise a tremendous crop of Hungarian grass, and it makes excellent hay. I suppose that a fair crop is two tons to the acre; three tons can be easily grown. The amount of seed to be sown averages from half a bushel to three pecks; perhaps a little thicker than half a bushel is better than thinner. In that way, the grass will not grow too coarse and rank for good curing, and it will grow thick enough to

keep the weeds out. I find that in the autumn and early part of winter, it is fed to cattle in the most useful way. I have seen a horse restored from a bad condition, in the months of November and December, quicker by Hungarian grass than by any other kind of food. I have fed it a great deal to milch cows, and I think as much milk can be made from Hungarian grass as from any other kind of grass, if properly cut and mixed with a little shorts or meal. It spends well; it is useful to feed. I have been unable to ascertain that there was any foundation for the opinion that it is injurious to cattle. As I told you, I fed it to a horse, and it did not hurt him, it did him good. I was told that Mr. Solon Robinson said in his book that it was injurious to horses and sometimes to cattle. I opened his book, and found there were nearly three pages of recommendations of Hungarian grass, and nothing unfavorable, except a hint or suggestion, that possibly it might be injurious to horses. I do not know, therefore, any objection to it. And if you let it grow until it is just going out of blossom, and the head formed, you will find that it will not shrink so much as you supposed it would in drying, and when dried, its weight is nearly equal to that of herds grass, which is about the heaviest grass we have."—*Practical Farmer*.

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 SOW PLASTER.
 

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Let no farmer who wishes to raise a luxuriant crop of clover on his thin soils fail to buy a few barrels of land plaster and sow on it just as it begins to show on the ground, and before the hot days set in. The beneficial action of plaster on clover is due chiefly to the capacity or quality which the plaster has of fixing the ammonia brought down from the atmosphere by the rains, dews, snows, and thus securing a large supply of nitrogenous food for the growth of clover. If any farmer doubts that he will be compensated for this outlay, let him buy but a bushel of plaster and sow one slip across his field, and he will find the clover so rank as to look like a raised bed, or a parterre of living green.

A Wisconsin farmer states that he sowed plaster on a field May 20, and obtained three times the grass on this field more than on that where it was not sowed. He used to raise only one ton of hay per acre; now raised, by plaster, two or three tons per acre; always top-dressed it on grass lands. He also states that when plaster was sown on clover, the clover all cut and hauled off, and the ground broken and sowed to oats, every cast of the plaster made in sowing it could be plainly seen in the field of oats. Also that when plaster was applied to corn, in the hill, the place of every hill could be seen in a crop of wheat which followed. In a drought, dew would be found on the ground where plaster had been sown, while all other ground was dry and hard.



For the Maryland Farmer.

## MR. JILKS ON FARMERS' CLUBS.

PAPER NUMBER I.

As I very frequently have to remark to Jezebel—that's Mrs. Jilks; quite a literary character; may be she'll tell you some of her 'xperiences in cookin' and dairy matters, and raising poultry; she's good in konversashun, and I have no doubt you could get her to put it in writing! at any rate, that mode would suit *me* best; being a leetle hard o' heering I require plain large print, as I sometimes miss a word in konversashun—as I was a-sayin', I have to tell Jezebel very often, I haint got much edgerkashun, and kant pretend to rite as well as the rest of your learned correspondents, but I keep on readin' and obsarvin'—I'm a powerful obsarver—and notwithstandin' my defishency, I know a thing or two. I've been watchin' the way farmers generally manige things, and I wonder they don't git along better'n tha do; it's a mighty strange thing they keep so poor, and lead sich a grubbin', pokin' kind ov a life; and havin' noted some pints of his practice, which I think can be improved, and as I rite for the advancement of the cause, I hope nobody won't git offended if I rite plainly, bein' one ov the family like.

Firstly, I've noticed the great benefits the farmin' kcommunity derives from jinin' teems; ef a nabor gits stalled, how soon the load moves on with the help of an additional team or two; and in thrashing, when three or four nabors jine and help out all around, how smoothly everything works with the help of a little axle grease. It's jes so about a Farmer's Club. Now there's a part of farmin' that has to be done by the mind, the thinking and planning and arranging part; what we might call the mental work of farmin', and it appears to me it would be jes as benefishal fur farmers to *jine heads* in head-work, as to jine teems in team-work, and I kan't think enny smart farmer will deny the necessity of making the head-work jes as neer rite as possible, fur the efficiency of the team-work depends on how the head sets and keeps it a-goin'.

But these yere Farmer's Clubs have a good deel to contend with among the very peepo to be benefited by them; ef a man takes a strong hold of the Club, works hard at it, and appears anxious to give 'em a powerful lift in the matter, they are very likely to say, "oh, he wants a orphis," and to show how much he wants an orphis they stay away from the Club. Them's the envious ones. Leavin' out sayin' ennything about how much more worthy a man is of an office who works for the elevation of his class, than them slippery politishans that feed 'em on raw beef and rot-gut, jes fur what can be got

out ov 'em, it seems a funny thing fur peepo to refuse to be elevated and improved fur feer o' somebody else's gittin' elevated and improved too.

Then there's sum that plank down the stamps like a crack shot at a turkey-match, and lay out enuf "snap" at the fust meetin' to run the machine fur a yeer, providin' the artikul was ekally divided amung all the meetins, an' that finally git so cool about it tha stay away if the cat's goin's to have kittens. Them's the jerkin' ones.

Then sum find out it's goin' to cost sum munny; they kan't afford to take a farmin' paper; they don't bleeve in book farmin', cause they don't know what that is; hain't seen none ov it, an' kan't describe it; tha don't take the county paper cause the "ring" maniges it, and fur that reason tha don't want to kno the price o' weet, an' who gits married; this kind never stops to think wot a deer thing ignorance is; well, *they* leeve.

Them's the stingy ones.

Then there's sum find out it's goin' to take time, an' insted o' goin' to the Club meetin' every time, tha go off to the (I om *very* sorry to say it,) grogshop, and giv' 'em a lecktur all the evenin' about wot sites o' time a man would spen' in tendin' on one, and then take another drink on the subjek.

Them's the onery ones.

Then there's some find out tha ain't as smart as they thought they was, and as everybody else don't seem to thlnk *they* are the only wise ones, they "don't like the kompany," and *tha* leeve.

Them's the self-ritchus ones.

Then there's sum that don't git all thelr resolutions carried, and tha "don't like the way things is maniged," and to help manige 'em rite, *tha* leeve.

Them's the obstinit ones.

Now, by the time you get all the envious ones, and the jerky ones, and the stingy ones, and the onery ones, and the self-ritchus ones, and the obstinit ones away, there's usually nobody left but the Sekretary, and he gets sued fur the detts of the Club, and gits disgusted, and *he* leaves, and sum feller cums along and writes "Ikabod" on the gavel.

In jinin' heads, as in jinin' teems, everybody's got to give in a little, and then when the majority votes, turn in, hook up, and pull altogether, and the load gits to the top ov the hill.

When I set out to rite this letter, Mr. Editor, I hadn't no notion it would be so long, and as it is very late—nigh ontu half-past nine—I must close, or Jezebel won't like my usin' up so much of the dip on book-farmin' matters. I've a notion o' tellin' you my opinion some other time of wot a Farmers' Club *might* do, providin' we could "jine heads" successfully.

Yours hopefilly,

EZEKIEL JILKS.



THE  
**MARYLAND FARMER,**  
 A STANDARD MAGAZINE

**EZRA WHITMAN,**  
 Proprietor.

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 Conducting Editor.

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 Associate Editor.

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 D. S. CURTISS, Correspondent and Agent.

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Remit to the publisher of THE MARYLAND FARMER, Baltimore, Md.

**WHÔ'LL ACCEPT?**

To any one of our old subscribers who will send us *Five new ones* for 1873, at \$1.50, we will send by express or post, a copy of any book, the cost of which shall not exceed \$3, or any agricultural monthly or weekly, the price of which shall not exceed that amount. This proposition will be open until the first of March.

**JOHN SAUL'S NURSERY AND GARDEN.**

As it seems to be the fashion with the Northern and Eastern agricultural journals to make handsome general notices of the gardens, green-houses and nurseries in their regions, it may be that a fair statement of similar establishments, in this section, may be interesting to our readers, and therefore give a short plain description of a very deserving one near the Federal Capital, as above named.

Mr. Saul commenced, near twenty years ago, in a small way, here at Washington; and by dint of industry and fair dealing he has come to have one of the largest, and most complete establishments in this region of country. His grounds, in all departments, embrace about 124 acres of rolling and varied land, handsomely situated, some three miles from the city, and extending clear across, from the turnpikes that continue 7th and 14th streets, with the main entrance and front on the former. Of this ground about 80 acres are occupied with ornamental trees, shrubs and plants, including great variety of ever-greens.—About 40 acres are used for fruits, vines, rare shrubs, of most desirable varieties, and of different ages and sizes. Some four acres are occupied with *tube roses* alone, which he makes a specialty, shipping many of them yearly to Europe.

Several acres of these grounds are appropriated to the growing of seeds—annual and others—particularly for a series of rotation in plants, flowers, grasses, &c.

He has a capacious series of green-houses, cold-frames, pits, etc., for semi-hardy plants, shrubs and flowers; three ranges of houses, 90x24 feet each, for *camelia japonicas*; and three ranges of propagating houses, 200x15 feet each; and all of these various portions are well filled and fully employed. They are heated and temperature regulated by hot water flowing from furnace boilers in iron pipes all through buildings where needed; water supplied by force pump, from a handsome brook, from living springs, meandering through the grounds.

In addition to the above, there are, on the grounds, several substantial and convenient brick buildings for office, storage, packing, &c., and for use by tenants; the whole presenting very attractive premises, much visited by the citizens, the drive thence, on the turnpike, being a very pleasant one, passing several objects of note.

Mr. Saul has also a dwelling and store in the city, managed principally by his family, where they keep and sell flowers, seeds, shrubs and other articles; and the baskets, festoons, vases, and various exhibitions of flowers receive much attention and admiration, as seen, in the windows.



## A PREMIUM.

We offer to ever one getting up a club of 10 subscribers for the "MARYLAND FARMER" for 1873, a copy of the "*Great Industries of the United States*," an advertisement of which will be found in our columns of this number. It contains 1,300 pages and 500 engravings—price of Book at retail \$3.50.

## THE TANEY STATUE.

On the 10th of December, this splendid bronze statue, a masterpiece of the great Maryland artist, Wm. H. Rinehart, was unveiled before a large and distinguished assemblage at the State House in Annapolis. The State authorities, Judges of the Court of Appeals, Mayor and Council of the City of Baltimore, Lawyers from every part of the State, Senators and Delegates, distinguished citizens of Washington and elsewhere; with a brilliant crowd of ladies, were present to do honor to the memory of the great American Jurist, and illustrious Chief Justice of the United States. The address of S. Teakle Wallace, Esq., as Chairman of the Taney Statue Committee, in delivering the Statue into the custody of the State, was a masterly production and all that was to be expected from the great fame as an Orator which Mr. W. deservedly enjoys. Governor Whyte's reply was terse, appropriate and eloquent in a high degree.

After the ceremonies, a large number of those in attendance, visited, and were hospitably entertained at the Executive Mansion.

## DUNK PAPERS &amp; WICOMICO'S LETTERS.

While "Landmark" will not indulge in compliments to the Editors of the *Maryland Farmer*—however well pleased with their works—as we do not praise the host in his own house, love we his dinner and his wines never so much; but we do regret to part company with one of his entertaining guests—the author of "Dunk Papers," which have been so full of good things, told in quaint but clear style; we shall miss his chapters, and the frequent hailing to the "Joodge;" mayhap he will yet keep us company; but then, we are far from being left comfortless, while "Wicomico" gives us her felicitous company, all fresh and appetising from rural life, with "rural sights and scenes." If every county and town had fewer of Jacob's style of homes and more of Wicomico's, they might both well put aside their pens, or wield them only in refined rejoicings and cordial congratulations, in which the matrons and daughters could all participate.

D. S. C.

## FROM WARREN COUNTY, VA.

A correspondent at Milldale, Warren county, Va., in a letter, remitting his subscription, gives the following statement of the condition of things in that valley. He says:

"We are about closing another of the most unfruitful years our valley has known in my recollection.—There having been no more rain since our great freshet in 1870 than would keep vegetation fairly alive, with little rain and snow last winter, causing great distress during the past summer in many sections for lack of water for stock and family purposes; many large flowing springs of limestone water, together with wells and ponds, have gone entirely dry. Our harvest of wheat was light, generally upon uplands, with very short straw, even where I used 300 pounds of phosphate to the acre, manufactured at Bridgeport, Connecticut. I only reaped  $3\frac{1}{4}$  bushels per acre, after having paid \$50 per ton for the fertilizer—you can draw your own conclusion as to the value of the phosphate. Wheat is worth with us about \$1.50 to \$1.70 per bushel at our country mills. Corn is exceedingly low, only being worth about \$2 per bbl. The winter grain has suffered to some extent from exposure during the past freezing weather, not having any snow as yet to cover it. The ice-houses are generally filled, and we are as usual hopeful of the future."

## THE PENNA. FRUIT GROWERS SOCIETY.

The fourteenth annual meeting of this Association, will be held in the city of Reading, Pa., commencing January 15th, 1873, at 2 o'clock, P. M. Pomologists are cordially invited to attend its sessions. The Executive Committee feel assured that the ensuing convention, will, in point of numbers, excel any that has heretofore been held. There will be a general exhibition of all description of fruits, horticultural tools, &c. Short essays or impromptu addresses will be delivered by the following gentlemen, well known to the horticultural world: Thos. Meehan, J. B. Jenkins, H. M. Engle, E. Satterthwait, T. M. Harvey, Tobias Martin, J. S. Stauffer, F. F. Merceron, A. S. Fuller, Chas. H. Miller, Wm. Saunders, Saml. W. Noble, H. T. Williams, Wm. Parry, and J. Hibbard Bartram. President, Josiah Hoopes, West Chester county, Pa. Recording Secretary, Alexander Harris, Lancaster, Lancaster county, Pa.

CURING HAMS.—The following is a good recipe for curing hams, having been tested for many years in Maryland:

Two and a half pounds saltpeter, dried and finely powdered, half bushel best Liverpool salt, three pounds brown sugar, and half gallon molasses. Mix all in a vessel, rub the meat well with same, and pack with skin down.

The above is the exact amount required for 1000 lbs. of pork. After being in salt three to four weeks, take out, wash clean the pieces, dry, and hang it up for smoking. Three weeks is sufficient to smoke them thoroughly—by fire made of hickory wood. When smoked, take down and bag, or pack away in dry chaff or cut straw. Examine them occasionally, and if found to be at all damp, renew the packing with dry material.



## PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

**Transactions of the Iowa State Agricultural Society for 1871.** J. M. SHAFFER, Secretary, Fairfield, Iowa.

We have received this handsome volume containing an excellent Report of the Secretary, Mr. J. M. Shaffer, Statistical Tables, showing the resources, products, trade, &c., of the State: An Address, of much practical value by President Mayoun, Iowa College, before the Society of Poweshiek county; and Reports from the different county associations; the whole making up a very interesting volume, particularly important to the people of Iowa and those who may contemplate settling in that flourishing State.

**Report of the Commissioner of Agriculture for 1872.** FREDRICK WATTS, Washington, D. C.

This Report is a brief expose of the practical working of the Department; its increased extension of usefulness; how it materially advances Agriculture; urges upon Congress the necessity of protecting the great forests of the country, and of encouraging tree-planting on the prairies, and closes with a Report upon the financial condition of the Department, reflecting credit upon the economy of its administration.

**Vick's Floral Guide for 1873.** James Vick, Rochester, New York—Quarterly.

This is one of the best and most elegant, if not the most elegant and beautiful works of the kind ever issued from the Press. Such has been Mr. Vick's success that he has determined to issue these volumes quarterly, at the low price of 25 cents per annum; each one has a chromo worth double the cost of the whole set, besides the valuable information each volume will contain, illustrated by hundreds of accurate drawings of various flowers, minutely described in the letter press. This work is indispensable to every amateur florist, and an ornament for the centre table.

**Hand-Book on the Treatment of the Horse,** by CHARTS Wharton. PUBLISHED BY J. B. LIPPINCOTT & CO., PHILADELPHIA.

We have received from Messrs. Turnbull Brothers, of Baltimore, this handsome little book. It is handsomely printed and very fully illustrated. It gives much useful information about the buying, keeping and treatment of horses; also about riding, with instructions for ladies as well as gentlemen. We commend its purchase and study by every lady equestrienne and every inexperienced horseman. It can be read with advantage by all who have the care of or who own horses.

**"Within the Maze;" or, Lady Andinnian's Trial.** T. B. PETERSON & BROTHERS.

From Messrs. T. B. Peterson & Brothers, 306 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, an advanced copy of MRS. HENRY WOOD'S, *New Book*, "Within the Maze;" or, Lady Andinnian's Trial, purchased by them from the authoress, and is issued here in advance of its publication in Europe. It is said to be the best book that this distinguished authoress has yet written, which is saying a great deal, as she wrote the popular and world renowned "East Lynn," which has been dramatized and played before delighted audiences in a hundred theatres. It is prettily printed and bound. Price \$1.75. Sold by the *Baltimore News Company*, Sun Iron Building.

**The Artist's Love.** PUBLISHED BY T. B. PETERSON & BROTHERS.

From the same publishers, "The Artist's Love," by the great American sensational novelist, MRS. EMMA D. E. N. SOUTHWORTH, in connection with several short stories by her sister, MRS. FRANCES HENSHAW BADEN. It is the very book for the season and will delight the admirers of these highly popular writers of fiction. Sold by "The Baltimore News Company, Sun Iron Building, Baltimore."

## TO ADVERTISERS.

We would call the attention of our business men, and all who wish to advertise, that we shall print an extra large edition of our Journal this and the next two months, and those who desire to have their advertisements perused by thousands of new, country readers, would do well to secure space at once in our columns. As we shall spare no efforts to make the *Maryland Farmer* a welcome visitor in every household, those who desire their advertisement to reach the largest class of enlightened rural readers, will find our Journal the surest medium of accomplishing their wishes. A gentleman had a large stock of cattle for sale, and could not dispose of one in six months, until he advertised in our Journal, and in three months he sold nearly every one he chose to sell—and such has been the experience in advertising of hundreds whom we could name. The experience of the most successful men is, that advertising is the chief element of success in every business.

## RENEWALS.

We call the attention of our friends, whose subscription begins in January, that the last number of the "*Farmer*" closed the old year, and that a new one begins this month. An early *renewal* is solicited—which can be done by enclosing us \$1.50.—Let each of our old subscribers send us a new name for 1873, which can be easily done by a little effort on their part. Do this, and be happy.

## HOW OUR SUBSCRIPTIONS CAN BE DOUBLED.

Let each of our present subscribers secure us one *new* name, which can easily be done in their neighborhood. If they desire to compliment us they can do it in no more effectual way than this. We are susceptible to flattery, and you can all flatter us to your heart's content as suggested; and it is a good thing to do, we think. Will you, one and all, try it?

## AGENTS WANTED.

We are prepared to make the most liberal arrangements with parties to canvass for the *Maryland Farmer* in every section of the country, who can send to us for terms and specimen copies, which we will send free.



## COUNTY AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATION.

The steps which the State Legislature at its last session (1872,) took to encourage agricultural organization, referred to in a previous number, appear to be well received by the farming community and to have a tendency to accomplish the object designed by the Legislature. As this work of organization will be new to many of the counties, they will perhaps desire to know *how* to begin the work. As one way, we append a circular to be distributed to various farmers in the county for their signatures which, when gathered may be affixed to a call as specified.

Another way is for a few gentlemen to sign a call for a mass meeting of farmers to discuss the propriety of a thorough organization of the county; if it is decided to do so, the people may be called upon to send delegates from each election district (with a general invitation to all) to a future meeting to take definite steps, or the mass meeting may proceed to appoint a committee to draft a constitution and by-laws for the action of some future meeting of all who choose to attend. We hope the farmers of Maryland will give this vital question due attention.

We will add that some of the counties enjoyed excellent Agricultural Societies, a year or two ago, with a large and intelligent membership, some of whom have figured very conspicuously as active members of your State Society, and judges at its annual exhibitions, and while acknowledging the importance of our State Association, we hope our numerous and able friends in the different counties will not neglect their local organizations.

In view of the steps which Maryland is taking in the matter of agricultural organization, and of the necessity of devising means to relieve our agriculture of the burdens which needlessly embarrass it; and believing that a judicious effort should now be made to place the farming interest of our counties upon a basis, which will enable farmers to take such measures for their protection and advancement as they shall deem wise and necessary.

The following is the form alluded to above for a call of a County Convention:

"WE THE UNDERSIGNED, hereby join in a call for a County Convention, to establish a County Agricultural Association; said convention to be held at the Court House, at which time all persons interested in the cause are requested to be present."

Signatures——

The following is the Act referred to above, as passed by the Legislature of Maryland, session of 1872, for the encouragement of agriculture, &c.:

AN ACT for the promotion and improvement of Agriculture, and the Mechanical and Household Arts, in the State of Maryland.

SEC. 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland*, That for the promotion of the agricultural interests of the State, the sum of five thousand dollars be and the same is hereby appropriated to the Maryland State Agricultural and Mechanical Association, and that the sum of one thousand dollars, be and the same is hereby appropriated, each to the Agricultural Societies of Frederick, Allegany, Montgomery, Washington and Carroll counties respectively, and annually thereafter a sum of equal amount to that paid by the members of the said societies into their treasury; affidavits of which fact and the amount so raised by the Treasurers of the said societies, being first filed with the Comptroller of the State; *provided*, that such sums shall not exceed for the State Society, two thousand dollars, and for the county societies, five hundred dollars each in any one year.

SEC. 2. *And be it enacted*, That when any number of individuals shall organize themselves into an Agricultural Society, or any Agricultural Society now organized within any counties of this State, shall have adopted a constitution and by-laws for the government, elected their officers, and raised annually by the voluntary contribution of its members, any sum of money which shall have been actually paid into their treasury, for the purpose of being disbursed for the promotion of agricultural knowledge and improvements, and that fact be attested by the affidavit of their President and Treasurer, and filed with the Comptroller of the State, the said county society shall be entitled to receive annually a like sum from the State Treasurer; *provided*, that said annual payment to said county society shall not exceed five hundred dollars; *provided further*, that but one such society in any county shall be entitled to receive such appropriation in any one year under this Act.

In our next we will publish a form of Constitution, By-Laws, &c., for the formation of County Societies and Farmers' Clubs, to facilitate the work of organization throughout the counties of the State.

Merino sheep were brought into France in 1776, and kept under charge of the Government for the improvement of the stock of the country. Bonaparte, in his liberal policy toward agriculture, greatly increased the number of societies, established professorships, botanical gardens, &c., all of which concurred to elevate the study of agriculture in the estimation of those capable of bringing to its aid the principles of the abstract sciences, and this tendency has influenced the scientific minds of France to the present day, though strange to say, the practice of the country has not kept pace with the development of theory, and in many of the departments the methods adopted and the implements used are still extremely rude. This is owing partly to the division of property, the holdings, as a general thing, being very small.

SALE OF FINE SHEEP.—We learn Gov. Oden Bowie has succeeded in purchasing the splendid flock of Cotswold sheep, twenty-four ewes and one buck, from Dr. W. H. DeCoursey, of Queen Anne county. We did not learn the amount paid, but suppose it was a tall price. Dr. DeCoursey is one of the most distinguished breeders of sheep in Maryland.



## SOMETHING ABOUT THE MOLE.

In the latter days of June the mole is amorously inclined, and when he falls in love, he loves with all the intensity of his being. He is fearfully jealous. Let two male moles meet when the tender passion is upon them, and a desperate fight is the inevitable result. They fall upon each other with great fury, scratching, tearing, and biting, unconscious of everything around them, completely lost in the heat of battle. Often they break through their burrows in the conflict and struggle fiercely in the open air. Love seems to lead the world astray. It plants jealousy in the hearts of men and women, and the majority of the most fearful tragedies recorded by the daily press are the outgrowth or result of insane passion. As in his fury the mole rises from his dark burrow and continues the battle in the pure sunlight of day, we are led to infer that there are human beings in the world who would keep up in Heaven the strife began here, if such a thing were possible. Alas! how many sins Love will have to answer for. But to return to the mole. This little animal eats as furiously as he fights. He hunches his back, retracts the head between the shoulders, and uses the fore paws to assist him in pushing the worm into his jaws. The food is quickly torn to pieces and as quickly devoured. The animal must possess great energy, or it could not continue for a lifetime, as it does, to force itself through the solid earth. The mole is full of courage, and, relatively speaking, is far more powerful than the lion. Dr. Wood writes: "Magnify the mole to the size of the lion, and you will have a beast more terrible than the world has yet seen. Though nearly blind, and therefore incapable of following prey by sight, it would be active beyond conception—springing this way and that way as it goes along, so as to cover a large amount of space, leaping with lightning quickness upon any animal which it meets, rending it to pieces in a moment, thrusting its bloodthirsty snout into the body of its victim, eating the still warm and bleeding flesh, and instantly searching for fresh prey. Such a creature would, without the least hesitation, devour a serpent twenty feet in length, and so terrible would be its voracity that it would eat twenty or thirty of such snakes in the course of a day. With one grasp of its teeth and one stroke of its claws it could tear an ox asunder, and if it should happen to enter a fold of sheep or an enclosure of cattle, it would kill them all for the mere lust of slaughter." Who can look upon this eloquent pen picture and not feel thankful that the mole is not as large as the lion? We are content to look upon the animal as it is, not as Dr. Wood paints it. Wonderful indeed are the creations of God.—*Turf, Field and Farm.*

## AYRSHIRE COWS AS MILKERS.

In 1868, Wm. Birnie, Esq., of *Springfield, Mass.*, in a letter addressed to a gentleman of Maryland, says:

"Kitty 4th took the highest prize as a milker of any breed at the Fair of the New England Agricultural Society, at Springfield, Mass., in 1864, having given her own weight in milk each month for four months previous to the Fair, and four hundred and forty-two pounds over.

In 1859, intending to exhibit her at the Fair of our County Society, I kept a record of her milk, which I give below as copied from the report of C. L. Flint, Secretary of the Mass. Board of Agriculture for that year. She calved the 25th of March and we began to weigh her milk April 1st; during the month she gave 1127 pounds of milk, in May 934, June 1025 pounds, in July 972 pounds, in August 912 pounds, total in five months 4953 pounds. Her feed was pasture, green grass and green corn fodder, and her weight as she stood September 1st was 875 pounds. Thus it will be seen she gave her weight in milk each month for five months and 578 pounds over. This remarkable cow has transmitted her milking qualities to all of her descendants, her daughter and granddaughter being equally deep milkers. The bull calf, Nicol Jarvie, is a son of the granddaughter of cow Kitty 4th, by my bull Honest John, whose portrait is published in Mr. Flint's report of this year. He took the highest prize of his class at the last two Fairs, (1866 and 1867), of the New England Society, taking the sweepstake silver medal."

*Nicol Jarvie*, was bought by Major Matthews, of Charles county, Md., and lately sold to H. A. Taylor, Esq., of Mount Airy, Va.—*Eds.*

GOOD ADVICE.—Mr. Harris closes his "Walks and Talks" for the year, in the Agriculturist, with the following valedictory sentiments:

"I want it understood that my faith in good farming and my respect for good farmers grow stronger and stronger every year. I still believe in summer-fallowing on clay land, and am satisfied that fall-fallowing is a good thing. I believe that weeds can be killed, and am making considerable headway against them. My corn is the best and my corn-stubble the cleanest I have ever had—better and cleaner than the Deacon's! I think we plow too much land, and do not plow our land enough. We must have cleaner land. We must raise bigger crops, or there is no profit in farming. We must keep better stock, and feed more liberally. We must make more manure, and what is still more important, we must make *better* manure. And must take care of what we do make."

An acre consists of 6,272,640 square inches, and an inch deep of rain on an acre yields 6,272,640 cubic inches of water, which, at 277.274 cubic inches to the gallon makes 22,622 2-5 gallons, and as a gallon of distilled water weighs 10 lbs., the rainfall on an acre is 266.225 lbs.avoirdupois. As 2240 lbs. are a ton, an inch deep of rain weighs 100.933 tons, or nearly 161 tons per acre. For every 100t of an inch a ton of water falls per acre.



For the Maryland Farmer.

## CANADIAN AGRICULTURE.

### COMMENTS.

BY OUR OWN TRANSLATOR.

We translate from *La Semaine Agricole*, of Montreal, the following items:

According to an analysis by E. G. Provost, M. D., some Canadian sugar-beet yielded ten and a half per cent. of sugar, which he says is a larger per cent. than the beet of France and Germany.

From the large correspondence upon the same subject, occupying several columns of *La Agricole*, by E. Barnard, A. Pinsonneault, and C. Dansereau, we conclude the important question of beet sugar manufacture is being thoroughly agitated among Canadian cultivators.

[Has Maryland nothing to say in regard to the establishment of something of this kind to profitably diversify the processes now so unprofitably followed amongst us?—*Translator*.]

### LIMING OF CABBAGES.

M. Dumas, chief gardener of the Farm School of Bazin, (France) says of this process: The difference between limed and unlimed cabbage is sufficiently in favor of the liming to suggest the doubt of the simultaneous setting out of the plant. The plan consists in spreading in the fall or spring, a layer of lime on the leaves and soil during a rainy or dewy time, that the dust may not remain on the surface of the plant, but descend and contribute to its growth, which will be very rapid in consequence.

Agricultural exhibitions have recently been held in the counties of Terrebonne, Cartier, and Montcalm. (The examples of other sections and of the few counties of Maryland which have an annual exhibition, should induce a similar work upon the part of every county in our own and other States. An annual exhibition is a prominent and indispensable feature in the work of regeneration.)

### IMMIGRATION.

In a three column address on the subject of immigration, M. Ed. Barnard remarks, in speaking of some necessary expense to be incurred in advancing the cause: "Let us be persuaded, whatever our condition, that money spent in the judicious development of agriculture, is simply placing it at a large interest. If we have the means given us of producing two blades of grass in place of one, we at once double our riches in doubling the entire production of the country."

(We remember with pride the enthusiasm manifested in the immigration movement in our State a

year or two ago, and regret that some plan was not devised by the last Legislature to give effect to the wishes of the people. We trust the question will be agitated in and out of the Legislature until the tide of immigration which is now making other sections prosperous and fertile shall be measurably diverted to the needy and untilled wastes which so urgently require its beneficial influences.—*Translator*.)

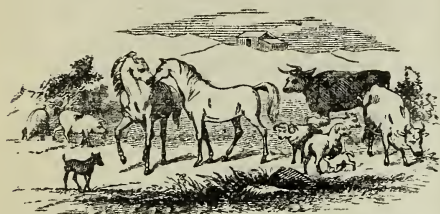
### TOBACCO PRESS.

We take from the *St. Mary's Beacon* the following editorial notice of a newly invented Tobacco Press, patented by Dr. J. Felix Morgan. The Doctor called upon us with his model before he got his patent, and we were much pleased with the simplicity, and yet the great power which could be obtained by so little manual force. The chief feature recommendatory of it was its adaptability to small planters. It can be worked so conveniently by one man and a child—most Tobacco Presses require at least three or four able bodied men. Dr. M. promised us as soon as he got the patent to have a drawing made, and give us full particulars as to price, &c., and we are still expecting it, when we will publish it, and give our views more fully in regard to it:

Dr. J. Felix Morgan, of this county, has recently obtained "Letters Patent" for the invention of a Portable Tobacco Press, quite a number of which have been constructed, under his personal supervision, and are now being used by planters in this county. The chief advantage of this press over the old style press, or Prize, consists in the great saving of time and labor and the improved condition of the tobacco when prepared for market. The leaf will not be bruised in packing, and will always present an even and smooth appearance. One man can easily prize a hogshead of tobacco in a day—full weight—and two men can prize three hogsheads. Another advantage connected with this patent is that, by the use of a simply constructed railway platform—being a part of the invention—two hogsheads can be worked alternately, under the same screw, and the process of packing and pressing thereby greatly expedited. All who have used this press speak in the highest praise of its general utility, and are particularly pleased with the durability and simplicity of its construction. It may be readily removed intact, or any ordinary farm laborer can take it to pieces and put it together, without the slightest apprehension of damage to it."

THE "SUN" CALENDAR.—We have received from the office of the daily "Sun," two elegant Calendars for 1873, gotten up in a beautiful style of typography and executed at their own Steam Power Book and Job Printing Office. It is embellished with a photographic picture of *The Sun Iron Building*, which is a model piece of architecture.



*Live Stock Register.*

## BREEDING HOGS.

The following is the substance of the Report of the Illinois State Swine Breeder's Association:

1. The lower the price of pork, the greater the need for growing those breeds from which the product can be most cheaply made. Depreciation in prices should be met by greater efforts to improve the stock.

2. To avoid possible deterioration, it is best to preserve the distinct breeds pure.

3. Before farrowing, give sows such food as will incite the secretion of milk. After farrowing, feed lightly at first, increasing the quantity carefully up to the full supply. Teach the pigs to eat as soon as possible.

4. After weaning, the pigs should have the best of care. Milk, with oats and corn ground together, is excellent food, in proper quantity. Plenty of exercise is indispensable to health.

5. Market at nine to fourteen months old for profit.

6. It was thought best not to encourage the breeding of pure-bred animals for general pork-making; that is, it is not necessary to confine it to any pure breed to insure success, but that the mixing of pure breeds for this purpose has, in the main, given very satisfactory results.

7. Ground or cooked food will, per pound, make more pork than unground or uncooked; but it does not follow that, under all circumstances, it is most profitable to grind or cook it. This will depend on the price of grain, the expense of grinding and cooking, and the cost of feeding. Each farmer must decide the question for himself, and by his own surroundings. It is better to shell and soak corn, than to feed it in the ear.

8. Most diseases among animals are attributable to want of judgment and care in their management. All remedies for diseases which prevailed in 1871 failed. Kill the sick hogs and find out, if possible, why they became so, and then apply the remedy to the cause. The style of architecture, although to be regarded, is not the most important part of a pigery. A pen well covered with coarse, wild hay, and kept clean, where the pigs are regularly fed and watered, is all that is indispensable to success.

The Census Office has completed its statistics of the manufacture of agricultural implements for the year 1870. It shows their value to have been \$52,000,000. This is more than three times the value of those made in 1860.

## CARE OF HORSES.

All horses must not be fed in the same proportions, without regard to their ages, their constitutions and their work; the impropriety of such a practice is self-evident. Yet it is constantly done, and is the basis of disease of every kind.

Never use bad hay on account of its cheapness, because there is no proper nourishment in it.

Damaged corn is exceedingly injurious, because it brings on inflammation of the bowels and skin diseases.

Chaff is better for old horses than hay, because they can chew and digest it better.

Mix chaff with corn or beans, and do not give the latter alone, because it makes the horse chew his food more and digest it better.

Hay or grass alone will not support a horse under hard work, because there is not sufficient nutritive body in either.

When a horse is worked hard its food should be chiefly oats—if not worked hard its food should be chiefly hay—because oats supply more nourishment and flesh-making material than any other kind of food; hay not so much.

For saddle or coach horse, half a peck of sound oats and eighteen pounds of good hay are sufficient. If the hay is not good, add a quarter of a peck more oats. A horse which works harder may have rather more of each; one that works little should have less.

Rack feeding is wasteful. The better plan is to feed with chopped hay from a manger, because the food is not then thrown about, and is more easily chewed and digested.

Sprinkle the hay with water that has salt dissolved in it, because it is pleasing to the animal's taste, and more easily digested. A teaspoonful of salt in a bucket of water is sufficient.

Oats should be bruised for an old horse, but not for a young one, because the former, through age and defective teeth, cannot chew them properly. The young horse can do so, and they are thus properly mixed with saliva, and turned into wholesome nutriment.—*London Horse Book.*

## TRAINING A HEIFER TO MILK.

Cows usually become addicted to kicking when heifers, from being milked by abusive milkers. I have never seen an old cow become a kicker unless abused. Instead of cows being averse to being milked when giving a large quantity, I have ever found it the reverse. When pasturage is good, and cows come home at night with udders distended with milk, they seem grateful to have it removed. Milking a heifer for the first time requires patience, for they will almost invariably kick. In such a case, put a broad strap around her body, just in front of the udder, and buckle it up moderately tight, and as soon as she gets quiet, (for she may dance around a little at first,) take your pail, sit down and go to milking, for she is as helpless as a kitten. Do not attempt to use a rope instead of a strap, for it will not answer. This is a much better method than tying the legs, etc., as it does not hurt the animal in the least. A few applications of the strap, with plenty of patience and kindness, will cure the most obstinate case.—*Correspondent Rural Home.*



## STALLIONS FOR SERVICE.

We are cursed with too many stallions. Every other farmer who is blessed with a horse colt seems to think it his duty to preserve the young equine for stock purposes. He does not stop to consider whether the animal is worthy to perpetuate his line—whether his blood will ennoble or degrade—but he goes it blind, and dreams that a stud-horse surely leads to fame and fortune. As a natural result we have cheap stallions standing all over the country, and the proprietors of the stallions descend to all manner of tricks to secure a respectable quota of mares for each harem. In too many places the farmers are so penny-wise and pound-foolish, as to breed to the cheapest horses, irrespective of service. If they can get a service for five dollars they will take it, and then bestow great care upon the worthless offspring. They degrade their mares, cheat themselves, and perpetuate a line of brutes. A colt from a five-dollar stallion is not worth raising; and so long as we do raise the mongrels, we cannot expect to see any marked general improvement in our stock. There is only one way to deal with this question. No stallion should be permitted to stand for mares without having first been examined by a competent board, and received a certificate of merit, and been granted a license to render public service in the stud. The question is one for legislation, and the board of examiners should be the creation of law. Until we adopt some radical measure like this, we are certain to be cursed with worthless stallions, and to mark, as the positive fruit of these stallions, the degeneracy of equine stock.—*Turf, Field and Farm.*

**TREATMENT OF BROKEN LEGS.**—They have a new way of treating the broken legs of horses which ought to be generally known. A valuable horse in Hartford, Conn., had his leg broken a short time since. The leg was carefully set by an experienced surgeon, and was covered thickly with plaster.—When the plaster “set,” or hardened, it kept the limb as immovable as if it had been made of iron. Thus treated, a broken leg, it is asserted, will knit together in a brief time, and become as good as ever.

**CARE OF HORSES FEET AND LEGS.**—Few men who handle horses give proper attention to the feet and legs. Especially is this the case on farms. Much time is spent of a morning in rubbing, brushing and smoothing the hair on the sides and hips; but at no time are the feet examined and properly cared for. Now, be it known, that the feet of a horse require more care than the body. They need ten times as much, for in one respect they are almost the entire horse. All the grooming that can be done won't avail anything if the horse is forced to stand where his feet will be filthy. In this case the feet will become disordered, and then the legs will get badly out of fix; and with bad feet and bad legs, there is not much else of the horse fit for anything.

The *Democratic Advocate*, published an edited by our old friends Wm. H. Vanderford and Charles H. Vanderford, at Westminster, Carroll county, Md., comes to us lately in a new elegant garb, enlarged to the extent of four extra columns, and greatly improved. The talent and energy of the editors is a guarantee of its increased usefulness and prosperity.

## USEFUL RECIPES.

**BEST TIME TO CASTRATE ANIMALS.**—Young pigs, lambs and calves may be castrated almost any time with perfect safety. Many persons hold to the opinion that cold weather is the most suitable time to castrate colts and aged animals. My experience and observation is that May and September are the most suitable times. In May there are no flies or other insects to torment the animal; and also, the weather not being hot the animal does not resort to the shade. Consequently keeping out in the open field it is natural it will pick grass and keep in moderate exercise, an animal will swell less than if it remains too much of the time stationary under the shade. The same reason applies to September. If done in cold weather, the animal will be apt to be kept housed, which should never be done.

**TOO GREAT A SECRETION OF GALL.**—A symptom of the disease is a dull, sunken eye, discharging a yellowish, watery substance. A sure preventive of the overflowing of the gall in cattle is soot and salt, given in equal quantities once a week, or as occasion may require. If soot is not convenient, copperas with salt to the amount of one teaspoonful to each, answers a good purpose. When cattle get very weak from the effects of this disease (which they sometimes will in the best condition,) take eggs, turn out the whites, and fill the shells with soot and salt, and give three at a time, three mornings in succession, and then omit three, and so on until you have given three times, which will generally effect a cure.

**MANGE, OR SCAB.**—This is denoted by the animal rubbing the hair off about the eyes and other parts. The skin is scaly or scabby, sometimes appearing like a large seed-wart.

**Remedies.**—Rub the spots with sulphur and lard, after scraping and washing with soap.

When the skin is cracked, take sulphur, 1 lb.; turpentine,  $\frac{1}{4}$  lb.; unguentum, (or mercurial ointment,) 2 ounces; linseed oil, 1 pint. Melt the turpentine and warm the oil, and when partly cooled, stir in the sulphur; when cold, add the unguentum, mixing all well. Rub this thoroughly with the hand on the parts affected.

We have no doubt this, like scab in sheep and itch in the human species, will be found, on close investigation, to be caused by minute insects located in the skin. Salt and water ought, in that case, to be a good remedy.

**FOOT ROT.**—Give your cattle the following: Table salt, 4 ounces; pulverized sulphur, 2 ounces; nit. potash, 1 ounce; pulverized gentian, 1 ounce, in 2 quarts of warm water once a day for four days. Externally use, acetate of lead, 1 ounce; glycerine, 4 ounces; mix and anoint the parts twice a day, after cleansing with soap and water.

**INFLAMMATION OF THE STOMACH.**—This is frequently produced by a sudden change from dry to green food, and some other causes.

Epsom salts, castor oil, sulphur, and carbonate of soda, in sufficient quantity to purge freely, are good remedies. It may be prevented by changing the food gradually.—*Above from American Stock Journal.*

**For Ten Dollars.**—We will send 11 copies of the *Farmer* for one year and to as many post offices,



## THE FLORIST.

### HOUSE PLANTS IN WINTER.

Mr. James Vick, whose large experience as a florist makes him an unexceptional authority on the subject, gives the following suggestions with regard to the management of house plants in winter:—

"Few plants can endure the high temperature and dry atmosphere of most of our living rooms. The temperature should not be allowed to go above sixty-five in the day time, and not above forty in the night. As much air and light as possible should be given, while the leaves should be sprinkled every morning. A spare room, or parlor, or extra bed room, is better for plants than a living room. A bay window, connected with a warm room, especially if facing the south or east, makes an excellent place for keeping plants in winter. It should have glass doors on the inside, which can be closed a part of the time, especially when sweeping and dusting. The main thing in keeping house plants in health is to secure an even temperature, a moist atmosphere, and freedom from dust. Sprinkle the leaves occasionally, and when they need water use it freely. If the green fly, or aphid, appears, wash with soapsuds frequently, and occasionally with a little tobacco water, or a decoction of quassia chips. If the red spider comes, it shows the plants are in too dry an atmosphere. Burn a little sulphur under the plants, the fumes of which will kill the spider, and afterwards keep the stems and leaves well moistened. Occasionally, but not often, worms appear in the pots. This can be avoided in a great measure by careful potting. A little weak lime water is sometimes of benefit in such cases, also five drops of liquid ammonia to a gallon of water, though, perhaps the better way is to re-pot, removing the earth carefully, so as not to injure the growth of the plant."

**HANGING BASKETS.**—Plants with slender branches which naturally hang down, are most suitable for hanging baskets. "Mother of Thousands"—the "Wandering Jew" with its pretty marked leaves—the "Lobelia," and some of the trailing "Campanulus or Bell flowers"—the well-named "Rat-tailed Cactus," and the so-called "Ice plants," are all more at home when suspended than when grown in any other position, unless it may be when placed on brackets each side of the window, where they have a very charming appearance. I would suggest that the suspended basket or flower-pot should be supported by a piece of cord passed through a small pulley, by which means it will be easily lowered down for the purpose of watering.—*The Garden.*

### INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION—1876.

We have received from the Hon. John W. Davis, U. S. Commissioner for Maryland, the Address of the United States Commissioners, appointed in accordance with an act of Congress, "that the completion of the One Hundredth Year of American Independence shall be celebrated by the International exhibition, of the Arts, Manufactures, and Products of the soil and mine, to be held at Philadelphia, in 1876. Originating under the auspices of the National Legislature, controlled by a National Commission, and designed as it is to "Commemorate the first Century of our existence, by an Exhibition of the Natural resources of the Country and their development, and of our progress in those Arts which benefit mankind, in comparison with those of older Nations," it is to the people at large that the Commission look for the aid which is necessary to make the Centennial Celebration the grandest anniversary the world has ever seen. In this "Celebration" all nations will be invited to participate; its character being International. Europe will display her arts and manufactures, India her curious fabrics, while newly opened China and Japan will lay bare the treasures which for centuries their ingenious people have been perfecting. Each land will compete in generous rivalry for the palm of superior excellence."

This is undoubtedly the grandest mode in which the centenary birth-day of our great Republic can be celebrated. The thirty-six sovereign States bringing together the evidences of the progress and the triumphs of republican free institutions in one vast exhibition, to meet the offerings that the nations of the old world will present in intellectual homage to the progressive greatness of Free America, will be the noblest and most glorious sight the world ever looked upon! We are sure the agriculturists will not be behind any other profession or avocation, in their contributions, to make this the most complete and magnificent Exhibition ever held.

**The Weekly Tribune.**—We call attention to advertisement of this weekly, now more than thirty years old, and which devotes a large share of its columns to agriculture, horticulture, &c. It is a good and cheap paper for the farmer and his family. In addition to its agricultural feature, it gives all the latest news, foreign and domestic, condition of crops, markets, &c.—price \$2, a year—5 copies, \$7.50.

**THE RURAL SUN** is a first class agricultural paper, published at Nashville, Tenn. It is conducted with ability, and its typography is excellent. It gives promise of great usefulness and success. Price, \$2.50 per annum—clubs of 5 at \$2 each. The *Maryland Farmer* and the *Rural Sun* will be sent both for \$3.00.



## THE DAIRY.

## EXPERIMENTS WITH MILK PANS.

MONROVIA, FREDERICK COUNTY, MD. }  
November 27th, 1872. }

To the Editors of the Maryland Farmer:

Sometime since, in discussing the merits of milk pans, the kinds and sizes required in dairying, I promised to experiment, and having done so to a limited extent, I will try to keep my promise, and give you my experience.

In our neighborhood, and, indeed, in all the surrounding country, we find the "corks" made of clay are generally used, and however particular we may be in selecting these corks, after a while the glaze cracks and scales off, leaves holes, often minute ones, (but the smaller the more troublesome,) which are filled with milk, which in turn sours, and not being thoroughly removed, sours the milk early. We discarded them for stone jars, holding two gallons; these were an improvement, being easier to keep sweet and clean, but more difficult to handle, on account of their weight. Hoping to do still better, the cream not seeming to rise as rapidly as required, we supplanted these with *tin* pans holding from three to three and a half gallons, with a fourteen inch surface, (diameter.) These also had their objections, being too heavy to lift from water, and having *three* seams, &c. We now have just the thing, tin pans, also, with one seam only—eight and a half inches in height, with a surface of eleven inches in diameter, and bottom seven inches in diameter; they are easily handled, holding two gallons. To prevent their corroding we paint them on the *outside*; we also have tiny round feet or ribs (three) on the bottom, which prevents them wearing through so readily. In summer we keep our milk in troughs of running water, six inches deep. These pans give *entire satisfaction*.

Now, in reference to another matter, in which I have been much benefited, and cannot forbear naming. We have had, as you know, a summer of extreme drought, and although in close proximity to good mills, we could not always be supplied with breadstuffs and feed for stock, and now "Young America" to the rescue! By putting a horse to the shaft, and throwing in shelled corn, in an hour we have meal for bread, (*first sifting*,) the *refuse* doing service for feed for our young poultry. The *drought* is over, but the terrible "Horse Disease" is upon us. "Young America" again is relied upon in this emergency. In a word, Messrs. Editors, I consider this "Corn and Cob Mill," manufactured by E. Whitman & Sons, in your city, as *invaluable* on a farm.

With best wishes for your success, I remain,  
Very truly, H. N. L.

For the Maryland Farmer.

## MAKING AND PACKING BUTTER.

I have been solicited by several, to tell them how to make and pack butter so it will keep, and when put on the table, look and taste as fresh and sweet as fresh butter. I should have told them in the Spring, but as I was not asked until late last Fall, by the young housekeepers, and then sickness with a press of my own household work prevented my answering them. Now I shall avail myself, of the *Maryland Farmer* to let all, at once, know how to put up good butter for winter use. No time more appropriate than the first of the year—April and May butter is the best to pack. Six good cows that give rich milk will be sufficient to furnish milk and butter in abundance for any usual sized family. First requisite, is an honest dairy-maid, who understands milking, is patient and gentle, will try and do her whole duty by the cows and is scrupulously cleanly. Secure if possible a spring-dairy, or one so situated as to have a plentiful supply of cool fresh water whenever required. Use stone corks, deep rather than shallow, they are easier cleaned, and more economical than tin, which soon leak, and preserve an even temperature. The churn is the next important utensil. The sort I used and liked much, was the thermometer barrel churn. It is easily taken apart and cleaned. It brings the butter quick; ten or fifteen minutes. The churn should always be kept in a condition as if ready for use, and the cream in a proper state for immediate conversion into butter. "What *state* is that?" asks an ignorant butter maker—why, first, the cream should not be over 24 hours old when scum—I am speaking now of the months of April and May, with warm, Spring-like weather; if cold and rainy, let the milk stand a few hours longer. The cream should be skimmed with a long handled tin skimmer, (the fingers should not touch the cream or milk), and as skimmed put in a three gallon stone jar, with a close fitting top or cover to it. When this is full of sweet, rich, yellow cream, thick almost as butter itself, then churn. Remember to have the churn clean and cool, as also the paddles, prints, pan or piggin into which the butter is to be worked, in fact, every article that is to come into contact with the butter must be cool and scrupulously clean.

Six cows ought to yield six gallons of cream, or two churnings each week, beside what fresh milk and cream may be used in the family. The jar intended for the butter to be packed in, should be cleaned with soap and hot-water. Then a teaspoonful of soda in warm water should be put in the jar, and the jar put on the dairy shelf for two



days before churning day ; then washed again in hot water without soap ; then rinsed with cold water, fresh and clean, then put on the shelf, dry to "sun." When butter is churned, you lift the top of the churn, and to a lover of the dairy and of good butter, there is no prettier sight, than those big lumps of golden butter floating on the sea of foamy white butter-milk. Place a pan under the spicket, and when all the butter-milk has run out, take out the paddles and handle or axle. With a large spoon remove all the butter, put it in the pan or piggan that was prepared for it, and work it with the paddle. The paddle and prints should have been put in a kettle of water and boiled an hour or so, and then placed in cold water to await the coming of the butter ; this preparation prevents the butter from sticking to the wood. Work the butter and press it with the paddle, until no milk will strain from the pan ; then pour cold water on, working it several times, pour off the water and wash it in a second water, when it must be pressed as free as possible from the water, which will run off clear. It is rare that good butter will require a third working to clear it of all butter-milk. It should look firm, solid, and have little dewy beads on the outer surface. Salt it to the taste and work it in well. Take out what is meant to be printed for immediate use until next churning day, print it and place it in a covered tin and set it on the ice, or floor of the dairy. Take the remaining butter, (which should be a good lump, at least eight pounds) and round it up in a mound shape, and sprinkle salt quite thick on the top of the "*pat*," and set it away in a cool place. Next morning when you go to the dairy about the milk, take the jar on the shelf that was prepared for the butter rinse it out ; do not wipe it dry, but let it drain dry, then sprinkle a little salt in the bottom. Work up the pat of butter, work it well, so as to incorporate thoroughly the salt which was sprinkled on it the day before. When it looks dry or free from moisture, and no lumps of salt in it, take it with the paddle and put it in the jar, smoothly, and when all is in, use a potatoe masher, kept expressly and alone for the purpose, and press the butter down firm and hard ; it cannot be packed too close. I would here say, that the larger the quantity packed at a time, (the jar filled at once would be best), the better the butter keeps. The butter should be pressed close to the sides of the jar and no place allowed for air. Pour on about four pints of strong, clean strained brine, strong enough to bear an egg. At each churning continue this process until the jar is full up to the neck. It ought to be filled in at least three packings, otherwise the layers will be too thin. Then take a clean cotton

cloth, wash it, wring it, and lay it damp over the butter, press the edges of the cloth with a sharp instrument close around the sides of the jar. On the cotton put salt to the top of the jar, tie over a rag and put a good close cover over it. Put the jar in the ice-house, on the ice, in a place likely not to be disturbed during summer. Pack butter up to 1st July—omit packing during July and August, as the weather is hot and generally, pastures are bad. Sell your overplus of butter, if you are fortunate to have access to a market, or if not, use it in your culinary operations in place of lard. Begin packing again in September and about the middle of October get a clean half barrel, and half fill it with clean clear strong brine, and print all the butter you make until very cold weather sets in. Drop the prints in the brine, which must occasionally be changed. These prints will be very handy for use during the winter months. Unless one has a dairy heated with steam, it does not usually pay to make butter in winter. It is better to have an ample supply of rich milk for the family and to give away to the neighbors. Select for this purpose two cows and give them slop, and feed high, mostly with warm drink and food.

My girl-friends know that what I have written is my personal practical experience. I have had butter on the table in June, packed in May the year before, with my fresh June butter, and good judges could not tell which was best, or which was the fresh butter. How many old housekeepers can do better in butter packing? This I did, before I was "out in company." Pardon, Messrs. Editors, this little boast of

GERANIUM.

We can vouch for the superior excellence of the butter of our young lady friend and for the truth of the concluding statement, for we were present on the occasion, and it was tested by gourmands in butter eating, if not in butter making.—*Eds.*

#### **Multum in Parvo.—A LARGE BOOK.**

From Tennessee, a subscriber writes, "please dont sende me no more (Farmers,) for I have got me a large farmer book that will do me my lifetime." Oh ! glorious happy state, you want no schoolmasters or mairms, and you have the *ultima thule* of Agricultural knowledge for a whole life-time, bound up in one large farmer book. How enviable is the State of Tennessee !!

**VEGETABLE AND FLOWER SEEDS.**—Mr. J. J. H. Gregory, of Marblehead, Mass., is well known as one of the few leading seed growers in this country. He was the original introducer of the Hubbard squash, and many other of our new and valuable vegetables. All seeds from him are warranted fresh and reliable.—His advertisements will be found in this number, and we invite attention to them. His illustrated Catalogue for 1873 (now ready) will be sent *free* to all applicants.



## THE APIARY.

Translated for the Maryland Farmer.

### NEW PROCESSES FOR GATHERING HONEY.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH.

How many riches are lost! said a learned economist. Among lost riches we should not forget those that can be realized by the cultivation of honey.

There is no household so poor that could not afford to have, with but little expense, that delicious product—the very name of which, in every language, calls, instantly to our minds, young or old, as a hope or a remembrance, the sweetest of the sweetest moons.

Honey and wax are products of secretion which bees extract from odoriferous plants. The setting up of a hive and its supervision, is not costly, the product certain and considerable. Unfortunately, the gathering of honey is not always easy; it is sometimes dangerous, at least, long and toilsome.

All those difficulties are to be accounted for to explain the fact of the little attention given to the raising of bees, which could become so important a source of revenue in our State, where flowers of all kinds are so beautiful and so sweet. (Of course we take here the word *flower* in its natural meaning, though we would have no epithet to withdraw, were we speaking of the Marylandese "*Fleurs animées*." )

Any method to simplify the gathering of honey should be encouraged. To popularize a process simple, of an easy application, and giving sure results, seems almost a duty.

For these motives, we will give in our next issue full particulars about two interesting experiments, described by Mr. Victor Meunier, a French savant, member of the Academy of Sciences.

The first process, by the application of chloroform, was found by Dr. E. Chairon, and tried with full success on the 9th of last September, at Rueil, near Paris, upon the estate of Madame Eourgue-neff, who kindly put her *Chateau de Vertbois* at the disposal of the inventor.

The other process, which essentially consists in *astounding*, so to say, the bees, and is due to the inventive mind of an inhabitant of Champaign, Mr. Antoine, of Reims. Without play on words, it is quite *astounding* in its simplicity. It was tried before the Society of Acclimatation, and the Society for the Protection of Animals.

Both processes are very simple and easy, and, above all, cause no injury to the bees operated upon.

The two processes alluded to will appear in our February number, translated from the *Journal Officiel* of the French Republic.

## The Poultry House.

### INFLUENCE OF FOOD UPON POULTRY AND EGGS.

There is no better fattening material for poultry than corn meal, especially if mixed with milk; and we notice that it has come to be used largely in some of the poultry yards of France. When insects are not procurable, animal food in some form is desirable, and here again we see that although poultry devours the flesh of the dead horses which have been flayed in France, it has been found to impart a disagreeable taste to the fowls so fed. Fowls, like hogs, are supposed to be universal scavengers; but, as with hogs, neither delicate nor healthy flesh can be made from them if fed upon garbage. Great care should be exercised in the matter, for the influence of the food upon the quality, not only of the meat, but of the eggs, has, in too many cases, not been duly appreciated.

**CHARCOAL FOR TURKEYS.**—A California paper highly recommends charcoal for fattening turkeys, and says that it should be pulverized and mixed with mashed potatoes and corn meal, as well as fed to them in small lumps. It mentions that in two lots of turkeys of four each, treated alike, and one lot given this mixture and the other not, there was an average gain in the weight of the first of one pound and a-half each. While we condemn the practice of mixing the pulverized charcoal with the other food of turkeys, compelling them to eat it whether they want to or not, we have no doubt of the excellent effects of supplying turkeys with charcoal broken into small bits, especially when fattening for market. We have had evidence of what we say, and for a number of years have recommended charcoal for this purpose.

**HOW TO FEED FOR WINTER EGGS.**—The Editor of the *Germantown Telegraph*, says that "that those not fully familiar with all the requirements of the "Henery," should remember that if they desire a liberal crop of eggs in the winter, fowls must be fed with raw meat chopped fine, not less than twice a week. They should also have a constant supply of gravel, also old mortar, lime or ground bones. They should be kept warm—the house should have a southern exposure, if possible, with window lights to shift when necessary. No one who cares about the appearance of his lawns, or the cleanliness of his yards, doorsteps, &c., should allow his fowls to wander about. A *chicken-yard*, as well as a chicken-house, is indispensable. As a dessert, a feed of crushed bones or bone dust should not be overlooked. On it mainly depends the success of the henery in winter."



## LADIES DEPARTMENT.

### THERE IS NO DEATH.

BY LORD LYTTON.

There is no death! The stars go down  
To rise upon some fairer shore,  
And bright in Heaven's jeweled crown  
They shine forevermore.

There is no death! The dust we tread  
Shall change beneath the summer showers  
To golden grain or mellowed fruit,  
Or rainbow-tinted flowers.

The granite rocks disorganize,  
And feed the hungry moss they bear;  
The forest trees drink daily life  
From out the viewless air.

There is no death! The leaves may fall,  
And flowers may fade and pass away;  
They only wait through wintry hours  
The coming of May-day.

There is no death! "An angel form  
Walks o'er the earth with silent tread;  
And bears our best loved things away;  
And then we call them "dead."

He leaves our heart all desolate,  
He plucks our fairest, sweetest flowers;  
Transplanted into bliss, they now  
Adorn immortal bowers.

The bird-like voice, whose joyous tones  
Made glad these scenes of sin and strife,  
Now sings an everlasting song  
Around the Tree of Life.

Where'er he sees a smile too bright,  
Or heart too pure for taint and vice,  
He bears it to that world of light,  
To dwell in Paradise.

Born unto that undying life,  
They leave us but to come again;  
With joy we welcome them the same,  
Except their sin and pain.

And ever near us, though unseen,  
The dear immortal spirits tread;  
For all the boundless universe  
Is life—there are no dead!

### A DEFENCE OF PRETTY WOMEN.

After all, is the world so very absurd in its love of pretty women? Is woman so very ridiculous in her chase after beauty? A pretty woman is doing a woman's work in the world, but not making speeches, nor making puddings, but making life sunnier and more beautiful. Man has forsown the pursuit of beauty altogether. Does he seek it for himself, he is guessed to be frivolous, he is guessed to be poetic, there are whispers that his morals are no better than they should be. In society resolute to be ugly, there is no post for an Adonis, but that of a model or guardsman. But woman does for mankind what man has ceased to do. Her aim from childhood is to be beautiful. Even as a school-girl she notes the progress of her charms, the deepening color of her hair, the growing symmetry of her arm, the ripening contour of her cheek. We watch, with silent interest, the mysterious reveries of the maiden; she is dreaming of a coming beauty, and panting for the glories of eighteen. Insensibly she becomes an artist, her room is a studio, her glass an academy. The joy of her toilet is the joy of Raphael over his canvass, of Michael Angelo over his marble. She is creating

beauty in the silence and the loneliness of her chamber; she grows like any art-creation, the result of patience, of hope, of a thousand delicate touchings and retouchings. Woman is never perfect, never complete. A restless night undoes the beauty of the day; sunshine blurs the evanescent coloring of her cheek; frost nips the tender outlines of her face into sudden harshness. Care plows its lines across her brow; motherhood destroys the elastic lightness of her form; the bloom of her cheek, the quick flash of her eye, fade and vanish as the years go by. But woman is still true to her ideal. She won't know when she is beaten, and she manages to steal fresh victories even in her defeat. She invents new conceptions of womanly grace; she rallies at forty, and fronts us with the beauty of womanhood; she makes a last stand at sixty, with the beauty of age. She falls like Cæsar, wrapping her mantle round her—"buried in woolen! 'twould a saint provoke!" Death listens pitifully to the longings of a lifetime, and the wrinkled face smiles with something of the prettiness of eighteen.

### THE OLD-FASHIONED MOTHER.

Thank God! some of us have an old-fashioned mother. Not a woman of the period, enameled and painted, with her great chignon, her curls and bustle; whose white jeweled hands have never felt the clasp of baby fingers, but a dear, old-fashioned, sweet-voiced mother, with eyes in whose clear depths the love light shines, and brown hair threaded with silver, lying smooth upon her faded cheek. Those dear hands, since worn with toil, gently guided our tottering steps in childhood, and smoothed our pillow in sickness; even reaching out to us in yearning tenderness, when her sweet spirit was baptised in the pearly spray of the river.

Blessed is the memory of an old-fashioned mother. It floats to us now like the beautiful perfume of some woodland blossom. The music of other voices may be lost, but the entrancing music of hers will echo in our souls forever. Other faces will fade away and be forgotten, but hers will shine on until the light from heaven's portals glorify our own. When in the fitful pauses of busy life our feet wander back to the old homestead, and, crossing the well worn threshold, stand once more in the low quaint room, so hallowed by her presence, now the feeling of childish innocence and dependence comes over us, and we kneel down in the mellow sunshine, streaming through the western window—just where, long years ago, we knelt by our mother's knee, lisping, "Our Father."—How many times, when the tempter lures us on, has the memory of those sacred hours, that mother's words, her faith and prayers, saved us from plunging into the deep abyss of sin! Years have lifted great drifts between her and us, but they have not hidden from our sight the glory of her pure, unselfish love.

PLANTATION IN GEORGIA TO RENT.—We call attention to the advertisement of W. C. Tilton, of Dalton, Georgia, offering to rent his plantation of 240 acres, in Murray County, Georgia. The plantation is well situated, in a healthy region—good water and extremely mild climate—about one mile from good schools and churches. To any one wishing to raise grain and grasses, sheep and stock, this is admirably located, as stock can be kept the year round without protection, and need only be fed about two months in the year, the range being well adapted to stock raising,



## A CHAT WITH THE LADIES FOR JAN'Y.

BY PATUXENT PLANTER.

"How beautiful thy frosty morn,  
When brilliants gem each feathery thorn;  
How fair thy cloudless noon!  
And through the leafless trees at night,  
With more than summer's soft'ned light,  
Shine thy resplendent moon."

A happy New Year to ye, my fair friends, and may a thousand blessings attend upon you!

While you prune and dust the beautiful flowers in your hanging baskets, and window cases, and feed your pet birds and fish, let us talk about the flowers, and work to be done this month, so as to forward the grand display next Spring. First of all, have you had your rose-bushes and shrubbery tied up, secure against being broken by the winds and heavy showers of hail and snow? Are the tender bulbs and flowers, roots and smaller shrubs protected against a severe frost, by a heavy mulch of leaves or straw, over which woods earth, brush, or boards are placed? Are your pits safe from mice, rain and cold draughts of air? Have you a box, or several large pots or vases, made for the purpose, prepared with sand ready for the moss, in which to plant your crocus, and are your hyacinth glasses in order? Remember the last of this month they should all be planted, if in *March* you wish to make the centre-table and windows of the parlor redolent with perfume and brilliant with flowers, as if it were a small corner of the Garden of Hesperides. It is, however, to be hoped that preparations were made last November, so that now you have some of those beautiful bulbs in bloom, and will continue to have them until they are found out of doors in the flower borders.

The rich colored Jacobean Lily is said to grow and bloom finely if the bulb be encased in a ball of moss, confined with wire, (old *hoop-skirt* would be good—"hey?") and hung in a warm room, and as often as the moss becomes dry, dipt in water until saturated.

I need hardly say, that those who have bulbs in glasses, must change the water at least once a week, and the water should be of like temperature. A florist says "a few drops of glue or ammonia added to the water strengthens the growth and increases the brilliancy of the flower."

Now is the time to draw your plans for new walks and borders or parterres, and gather the materials for a good compost heap for the flower beds. To make a cheap walk or path, I would advise that now it be dug out eighteen inches deep and the earth carried off, fill the trench with broken stone, brick and oyster shells to four inches of the top, then with coal ashes and cinders, raising it three inches in the middle; as the ashes are put on, rake them level and tramp; after every rain tramp or roll, and by next summer you will have a hard, compact path, always dry and less liable to have grass on it, than a gravel walk, to which grass growing is a great objection.

Look out for Vick's Catalogue of Flowers for 1873, or any other reliable seedsman's catalogue, and make your selection in time. Before you *order*, however, be sure you understand what you are getting, that is study and learn whether the plant be hardy or not, if your soil is likely to suit it; whether it is not better to buy the plant than attempt to raise it from the seed; in a word learn all about its nature and then you will not be disappointed, and will avoid the sin

of uncharitableness in blaming the seedsman for the failure, while it was the fault of your own want of knowledge. Some flowers are very fastidious as to where they are to grow; some want shade, some all the sunshine they can get; some, one thing, and some another, like our "variable" sisters of whom our dearly loved flowers are the emblems. By the way, this suggests to me that you might not take it amiss if I suggested to you as a very interesting and improving recreative study for the long winter nights, *Botany*. Procure Mrs. Phelps' Book, or "First Book of Botany, by Eliza A. Youmans," and make yourself acquainted with it thoroughly, and get others of the family to become interested, and next spring procure a small but good microscope, and you will be ready for a world of intellectual enjoyment both instructive and entertaining, whether in doors or when rambling in the fields or woods. In your walks and pleasant talks with your dear loved ones, whether little or big ones, you will have secured to yourself and to them a fund of amusement, and exhaustless subjects of conversation upon the beauties and wonders of the floral world—tenfold more elevating and refined than the re-hashed but month-old neighborhood gossip. Two young fresh hearts engaged in such intellectual amusement are drawn much nearer to Nature's God! and are much nearer true happiness, than if exercising in the exciting game of croquet or whirling in the lascivious German.

A California lady desires me to tell her "the best way for preserving eggs and which end to lay them on." The small end ought to be down, so that the white which contains the albumen should always surround the yolk, or it will soon spoil. There are many recipes given for preserving eggs. Some put them in bran, saw dust, salt, or thick lime water, or strong brine, etc. Some recommend smearing with grease. Any way is good which excludes the air. I prefer a layer of salt, put the eggs in, small end down, cover with salt, then eggs and continue until the keg is full; head up and every day or so turn the keg over, so as to keep the whites of the egg well distributed around the yolks. If intended for keeping only sixty days, pack in oats or bran, and keep in a cool place.

Have you seen the "*Smilas*?" It is a beautiful vine, with glossy green foliage, and as it wears well when used for trimmings for ladies' dresses, or as spray for the hair, it is used extensively in the North, in winter, for festive and funeral occasions. It is so popular that the real fashionables *will have it* at any price, so the florists sell it at fifty cents per yard. It would be well to try it, and if liked, propagate it, though I think it is strictly a florist's plant. There is a constantly increasing disposition, whenever it can be done, to trim dresses and decorate the hair with natural flowers, rather than with feathers or artificial flowers, or even jewels, since paste has rivalled so successfully the real jewel that one is taken for the other. Many ladies decline wearing jewelry, to much extent, in public, fearful that they would be called "Shoddy." For young girls natural flowers are certainly the loveliest ornaments, and in my judgment I think the old poet was right when he declared "*beauty unadorned is adorned the most.*"

**Specimens.**—Specimen copies of the *Maryland Farmer* sent FREE to any address,



## BY THE MILL.

A few short hours, a few short hours,  
The noisy wheels go round;  
A few short hours, a little while,  
And hushed is every sound.

You stream that flows so swiftly by,  
So swift by lawn and lea,  
Shall still flow on when you and I  
Have long since ceased to be.

A few short hours, a few short hours,  
We wander by the mill;  
A few short hours, a little while,  
And all is hushed and still.

The ivy wreaths that upward creep,  
Shall clasp you stalwart tree,  
While scarce in memory men shall keep  
A thought of you and me.

Then let us wander while we may,  
The noisy wheel goes round;  
And strangers, where we roam to-day,  
To-morrow shall be found.

## GATHERING ROSES.

Out in the shaded porch she stood,  
Twining the sweet rose-vine.  
Said I, "There is one bright rose I see  
That I fain would keep as mine."  
"I'll toss you your choice," she gayly said,  
The rose leaves fluttering o'er her head.

"My rose," said I, "is the largest there,  
And if that one you refuse—  
The sweetest, brightest, best of all—  
None other will I choose."  
"Come, gather your rose yourself," said she,  
Turning her blushing face from me.

Gladly I did her bidding then,  
And clasped her hand in mine.  
Gathered my rose all close to me  
Under the fragrant vine.  
"This is the one I want," cried I,  
Only a kiss for her reply.

## FIRST RATE SAUSAGES.

Pass your meat (without freezing) through your meat cutter, put it into a kettle and place it on a stove or over a moderate fire. Stir it thoroughly, being careful not to let it cook or burn on the bottom, while another person adds the following: For ten pounds of meat, three large tablespoons of salt; five of sage, two of summer savory, two of black pepper, two teaspoonsful of saltpetre, pulverized or dissolved, three-quarters of a pound of sugar. Stir until the seasoning is thoroughly incorporated with the meat; then pack in deep earthen dishes, or tin pans. Set away to cool. The next day, or soon after, warm lard so that it will spread with a case knife and make a coating over the meat, and it will keep any reasonable length of time fresh and sweet. Should you wish to preserve any until warm weather, take fine brown paper, cut it little larger than the surface of your dish, wet it on one side with the white of an egg, lay it on egg-side down, pressing it gently with the hand, letting the edge come over the edge of the dish, which will soon adhere and exclude all air. Keep it in a cool, dry place. The flavor cannot be surpassed. We have tried this mode and known it to be a good recipe.

**To Help the Farmer**—Show the Magazine to your friends, and talk about it as you mingle with them—show them a copy when opportunity offers, and induce them to subscribe. Let every reader act as an Agent in securing subscriptions for us, and thus help on the good work,

## DOMESTIC RECIPES.

**BUTCHERING RECIPES.**—"Maggie," in the *German-town Telegraph*, gives the following:

"As almost every family, at least in the 'country,' kill one or more hogs every fall or winter, they invariably make 'sausages,' 'scrapple,' 'souise,' and sometimes 'head-cheese.' Most families understand how to manufacture pretty thoroughly, but others do not, and produce anything but palatable articles. If made, however, after the following recipes I think they will have no reason to complain:

**Sausage.**—To 8 lbs. finely-chopped pork, 2 lbs. do. beef, put 4 ozs. salt, nearly; 2 ozs. pepper, 1 tablespoon of ground cloves, 1 oz. sage. Some like a dash of cayenne pepper, and others again a little garlic.

**Scrapple.**—Take a hog's liver, lights, heart, tongue, and the head, except the jowls, and offal pieces, both lean and fat, from other parts of the animal; boil them thoroughly in a small quantity of water; chop all pretty fine, after taken out of the liquor; season as for sausage; then return to the pot, thickening the whole with one-half buckwheat meal, and one-half corn meal, so that it will be about the consistency of Indian meal mush; let it boil gently for half an hour, then pour in pans to cool; slice it and fry in its own fat. It is far better than what is commonly called "liver-pudding."

**Head-Cheese.**—Boil in water somewhat salted, the ears, skin, feet, and a proportion of the sides of hogs, till the meat drops off or the flesh is quite soft. Take out and chop not so fine as for sausage; season with pepper, salt, cloves and herbs; mix well together and put it in a pot or vessel with a weight on it. When needed it can be cut in slices and eaten cold.

**Souise.**—Boil the feet of hogs till the bones come out easily, and remove them. Put them in a pot with pepper, salt and cloves or allspice, and cover with vinegar. It is eaten cold."

**KEEPING AND PREPARING MACKEREL AND OTHER FISH FOR COOKING.**—Mr. Isaac Hale, of Newburyport, Mass., the famous mackerel dealer, furnishes the following directions for keeping and preparing mackerel and other fish for cooking, which we lay before our readers with confidence of their excellence:

"To keep mackerel nice, and prevent rusting, be particular to keep under the pickle, after taking out the head. The small head to a kit is the one to remove. If the pickle should get below the fish, fill up with more made by putting salt in cold water. Be sure that the mackerel are kept under the pickle.—The cellar, or some place where you have no fire and an even temperature, is the best place to keep them, also, all kinds of pickled fish.

For boiling, soak 24 hours; for broiling, soak 48 hours; for baking soak 48 hours. In the latter case cream or milk can be used for cooking them in. To avoid the unpleasant taste which many persons experience, of the rising up in the throat after eating, skin the mackerel before cooking, and a white pulpy substance will be found, which adheres to the skin, and which contains this strong taste.

Dry codfish should never be boiled, as the flesh is harder the more it is boiled. Strip up fine, then soak in cold water until quite soft, and before bringing to the table change the water, and put over the fire and just bring to a scald, and it is ready for use. After preparing dry fish in this way, turn the water off, add a small piece of butter, and a milk or flour gravy, and you have an excellent breakfast dish.

To keep dry fish nice, and prevent sliming or drying up, pack them snugly in a box, and cover up airtight, put into a room that has no fire, (not in the cellar, unless it is a dry one,) and they will improve much by age. Always purchase slack salted fish, if you want the best. English, Portsmouth, or some other salted fish are much better, also cheaper, than the heavy, thick, pickle salted fish, as they will swell much in cooking, while the pickle salted dry fish will shrink. Never select a white looking dry fish for a good one, but rather one of a yellow cast."—*German-town Telegraph*,